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THURSDAY, MARCH 29TH, 2012

## 'Disgraceful' incident Men barged into woman's home - court told

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

A MOTHER of three and two friends, one of them pregnant, were confronted by six men when an affray broke out in Barry, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

Judge David Wyn Morgan, passing sentence, said that the men had taken part in a disgraceful incident.

Leighton Drew (20) of no fixed address, Rhys Watkins (25) of Atlantic Place, Barry, Anthony Jenkins (21) of Dylan Close, Barry, Ross McCaddon (20) of Ravenshoe Road, Barry, Daniel Watkins (21) of

Atlantic Place, Barry and Robbie Vaughan (22) of Fouraces Close, Barry, admitted a charge of affray.

Vaughan also admitted stealing two watches and two pairs of sunglasses.

Each was sentenced to a community order for a year, four were made subject to a supervision order for a year and four were ordered to carry out 60 hours unpaid work.

The judge told them:

"Some of you have a lot to offer, and you have opportunities you should take."

(CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 5)

## THEY'RE OFF - AND ALL FOR A GOOD CAUSE!



Runners were out in force at Barry Island last Sunday to support Sport Relief.  
(See full report and more pictures on page 36).

## FAMILY FLEE BLAZE

A Barry family fled from their home in the early hours of Monday (March 26) after a blaze at the house in Holmes Street.

Police said that at 6.05am 'a lighted object' was posted through the letterbox, causing a small fire. The family escaped through an upstairs window and were discharged from hospital after checks.

Anyone with information is asked to call Barry CID on 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## Island mother in plea to the Vale Council to save vital play groups

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

A MOTHER who lives on Barry Island, says her son is "devastated" that the 'Open Access' playgroup he has been attending at a local school is being cut.

Clare Tyne told THE GEM that her five-year-old son Keiran "loved" his Saturday

mornings at Barry Island School.

"Every Saturday, he attends the Open Access sessions from 10.30am to 12.15pm.

"The children love them. They play sports and do creative activities, like making things.

"One week, the supervisors took them

on a trip to Bristol Zoo. It was very exciting for him and he couldn't stop talking about it.

"He felt quite grown up going on a trip for the day."

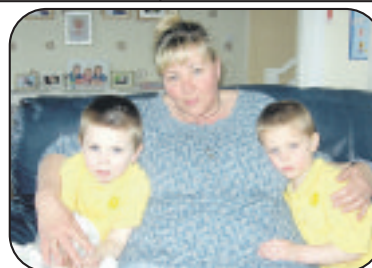
Clare said that Open Access was a great help for parents during the summer holidays, when it ran

from 10am to 12 noon and 2pm until 4pm.

"Six weeks is a long time for children and it gave them somewhere to go and something to do.

"Open Access caters for children aged from five to 14, and it also helps to provide respite for parents with severely-disabled children."

(Continued on page 5)



Clare Tyne with sons Owen (aged 4), and Keiran (5) whose last visit to Open Access will be this Saturday.

## HMS Cambria

THE streets of Barry will be packed this Saturday (March 31) when the ship's company of HMS Cambria will parade through the town, to mark the organisation being granted the freedom of the Vale.

The freedom ceremony will be held at King Square at 11am and the company will then be led in a parade by a Royal Marines band.

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## CONSERVATION AREAS AND 'DEMOCRACY'

**T**HERE was a tendency with the previous Labour, and the present Conservative Government, to gather power into Downing Street, and the letter from Coun Shirley Hodges (The GEM, March 15) indicates that megalomania may be spreading into the Vale.

I joined the Conservation Area Advisory Group around 1998, when all town and community councils had the right to send a representative to all meetings, though in practice not many community councils did so.

Relevant groups were also represented – Cowbridge and Llantwit Major History Societies and the Penarth Society, for example.

The council then decided on a cull, and community councils were eliminated.

The council, in its wisdom, invested our money in consultancy, and in time, town councils and the other groups

received the chop. In the 1990s, the Vale Council had a very strong conservation ethos, led by the conservation officer, Nick Lloyd.

The regular lay members of the group built up a vast experience of conservation issues, but this has been eroded in favour of 'experts' who are too busy to turn up, except for one notable exception, the Georgian Society.

Recently, following government policy in favour of development, the Vale officers reduced the size of every 'conservation area' in the county, except for two.

The effect can be seen already here, where the post office sorting office site is under threat. The Vale will claim that local people were consulted – I was part of the charade, which had no effect.

Coun Hodges' letter is a call to go back to a more open and democratic approach. Vivian Kelly, Llantwit Major.

## TRAVEL TALK

**I**N your recent article on Llangan, you distinguish between "permanent and transient travellers". Is a permanent traveller one who never moves on, or one who never settles down?

This is reminiscent of the old joke, "Are you going away this year? No, I'm going to Romania".

R Bradshaw, Cowbridge

## FocusBARRY: 'it's all about the town'

**W**ITH reference to the anonymous attack on FocusBARRY, 'It's not just about Cemetery Approach' (The GEM, March 22) this letter is clearly from a Labour supporter.

Unfortunately, it's misguided, misinformed and factually incorrect! Readers will be aware that many FocusBARRY supporters have written on a wide variety of issues to the local press and only a few have attributed their comments about Cemetery Approach and what

should be done with the land. I would also like to invite readers to join our FocusBARRY Facebook page, and see for themselves the wealth of issues talked about.

The Independent people FocusBARRY will be supporting in the election are only just announcing their intention to stand and they will be advising people of both their independence and common beliefs.

They will not be bombarding the public with dozens of leaflets full of the usual propaganda, but with some firm ideas about the way forward.

Jeffrey Heathfield, FocusBARRY supporter.

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## THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

### Readers' Letters

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## Cost and lack of choice to blame for airport's decline

**W**ITH reference to your report on Cardiff Airport, in last week's GEM; my wife and I moved to Llantwit Major in 2010 from Hertfordshire and a consideration of living here was to be near an airport that we could travel from.

We regularly fly to Malaga in Spain and before moving here, we normally used Luton Airport. The difference in passenger numbers is astounding. For the year 2011, Cardiff was 1.22 million and Luton 9.5 million. Even Bristol attracted 5.78 million passengers last year.

There are some similarities between Luton and Cardiff Airports. Neither has a direct rail link and both are run by the same Spanish consortium.

## 'Beware of the 'reforms' that endanger NHS'

**O**UR MP, Alun Cairns, in his GEM column, supports the current English NHS changes and hints that it should also happen to our NHS in Wales.

I urge all readers to beware and be vigilant against all those so-called reforms. 'Reform' is currently a thinly-disguised word for privatisation and competition within the NHS.

Although not directly affected, I have been following the fate of the English NHS in the media, as well as hearing from relatives and friends in London – and the only ones rubbing their hands with glee are the Tory-led

Government, the private profit-making health companies and a handful of individuals with shares in those companies.

Privatisation and competition within any institution leads to fragmentation of services. I recently needed to see two different consultants in our Welsh NHS in separate hospitals and the co-operation and integration was swift and exemplary.

It will not remain so if Mr Cairns gets his wish for 'reform' of our Welsh NHS.

By all means let us look to improving wait-

ing times, which certainly are rather long everywhere – but only do so within the structure and context of the publicly-owned and integrated NHS that we still retain in Wales.

Mr Cairns refers to the Prime Minister pointing a finger at waiting times in Wales being longer than in England.

If that is really so, then I would remind him that the shorter times there happened before their NHS privatisation began. Let's see what happens after!

I would also like to say that while the NHS, like all institutions and individuals, has faults which must be recognised and corrected, please let us refrain from mouthing criticism as a matter of habit.

Unthinking criticism is seized upon by those with an eye to private profits, as an excuse for 'reform', which then leads to fragmentation and privatisation of valuable public services.

We can learn this lesson from railways and other utilities that the Thatcher and Blair governments went on to 'reform' and privatise.

The NHS is by far the most precious asset and public service Britain ever acquired.

Please, do not let us in Wales lose it to private profiteers.

Marc Delaney, Barry.

I accept the population in the south-east of England is large, but there are numerous airports serving the area and competition is strong.

In Wales, we have only one airport: The road and rail link is similar to Luton Airport, so why are Cardiff Airport passenger numbers on the decline?

Well, it all comes down to the price we as passengers have to pay and the choice we have.

Quite simply, flying out of Cardiff is too expensive. I know many people here in the Vale choose Bristol as an alternative, and we may drive all the way back to Luton next time we go to Malaga.

We, like all those other people, would prefer to use Cardiff if we could and it is about time the Welsh Assembly supported Cardiff Airport.

We need to attract more low cost airlines, which would then create the competition to drive down prices, which would then increase the passenger numbers.

Next month, a new Spanish operator – Vueling Airlines – is flying out of Cardiff (unfortunately not Malaga, so complain to Vueling like I did).

This, hopefully, is a start to turning around the decline of Cardiff Airport. If it were ever to close this would be catastrophic for the city and the whole of Wales.

Having a busy and vibrant airport would bring in many visitors and would greatly boost the economy and employment. David and Anne Watson Llantwit Major

## Dogs and parked cars cause street problems

**W**E read, with both interest and anger, Coun Gordon Kemp's recent comments in The GEM about clamping down on dog fouling and chaotic car parking, as dog fouling has been a bone of contention to us since we moved to Cowbridge years ago.

Although most owners are responsible, those persistent and disgusting few owners who won't clean up are beyond contempt!

These people obviously care nothing for health or the environment, but I'm sure they would not like it on their shoes.

The day the tarmac was laid was no exception, as it had been fouled within an hour of the workmen leaving that afternoon!

As for car parking chaos, Middlegate has only one road in and out of this little estate, yet people park all along the

entrance on the right hand side, making the road only a single lane thoroughfare.

This, in turn, causes problems with 'cars meeting' somewhere along the road and drivers having to reverse back (usually with someone behind them) to allow one through!

Sometimes, they park on the pavement – so if you have a pushchair or wheelchair/mobility scooter, you cannot get by.

You will also see, regularly on a Thursday morning, council vans parked on the double yellow lines to the entrance as you come into the estate.

They are usually empty as the men have gone for a break.

But what really concerns me is this: if an ambulance was called in an emergency, I doubt very much it would get through, and as for a fire engine – that would have no chance!

So these drivers are putting all our lives in Middlegate at risk.

Mr and Mrs Barratt, Cowbridge.

## The 'Castaways' speak sadly of Rondel House

**I** WAS interested to see in The GEM on March 15, a photograph and article on the re opening of Rondel House.

I am glad that it has been refurbished for the attendees, but to see the staff and council members grinning out at readers was rather hard to take.

They have obviously conveniently forgotten the 40 elderly people they barred from attending Rondel House last year without proper consultation, without the help of an advocate and certainly without a shred of concern.

It was claimed at the time that the social services department was not going to continue to allow these people to attend Rondel House at the council's expense.

Actually, these old people paid for all food and drinks they received, and subscribed weekly into a social club to pay for their trips and entertainment.

The officers could have put up the charges at any time, if they had wanted to. No wonder they cannot make ends

meet. At no time has any officer of the Social Services Department contacted the old people, aged between 83 and 97, to see how they are, or if there is any help that can be given.

This despite the fulsome assurances I was given by the director about combining with the voluntary sector and setting up a trust to help them.

Thanks to the help of Trinity Presbyterian Church, the school meals service and the assistance of several truly devoted volunteers, we are managing to cater for the old people twice a week to provide them with a space to meet their friends, have a good hot roast dinner twice a week, and play their favourite bingo.

However, we cannot provide the same service that Rondel House did, and 'the Castaways,' which is what the old people call themselves, speak sadly of the days in that place – which several had attended for 20 years until they were told to go.

Coun Margaret Alexander, Buttrills ward, Barry.

## 'CLEAR AWAY THIS RUBBISH'

**I** AGREE with your correspondent, Ade Pitman of the 'Barry at War' Group, that the air-raid shelter at the corner of Cemetery Approach and Barry Road, Barry, should be preserved and utilised for the community in some way (The GEM, March 8).

Can I also make a plea that the footpath to the side of the shelter be cleared of the accumulated rubbish, some of

which looks as though it has been there since VE Day, 1945?

Finally, there is also a wonderful brick-built shelter south of the railway line, fronting the railway shed and now on the Waterfront.

I assume this was built to shelter railway workers, but even if it wasn't, it is a remarkable and well-built structure that deserves preservation – and I have already briefly discussed this with Dr Matthew Griffiths of CADW, who lives in Barry. Christopher Short, Barry.

## HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL APRIL 5)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time		Time	
	AM	M	PM	M
29 Thur	11.10	8.2	23.14	8.0
30 Fri	11.42	7.7		
31 Sat	00.06	7.6	12.47	7.3
01 Sun	01.23	7.3	14.21	7.2
02 Mon	02.59	7.4	15.49	7.5
03 Tues	04.15	8.0	16.49	8.2
04 Wed	05.11	8.7	17.39	8.9
05 Thur	06.59	9.4	18.24	9.6

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.



## AGGRESSIVE SEAGULLS 'A MENACE'

## 'The Birds' reign of terror in West End!

A BARRY resident says the unruly behaviour of local seagulls is like something out of Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds*.

In the 1964 film classic, the humans become the victims of avian aggression, and Richard Pierce said that in the West End of the town, delinquent seagulls are making people's lives a misery.

He told The GEM that the number of gulls in the town had increased dramatically in the last decade, and had led to significant nuisance for residents.

Richard lives on Romilly Road and says that when seagulls live in their natural cliff top habitat they are no problem, but when they make their homes in residential streets it is a different matter.

"Seagulls nest from around mid-March until October and in that time, the area around their nests and eggs become their territory.

"This sounds fine when they live on a cliff, but when they take to chimneys on domestic properties and flat roofs it is a nightmare.

"They attack while you enter, leave or simply walk past the house.

"I live near Romilly Primary School and the seagulls dive bomb and attack the children as they walk past my home!"

For Richard and his family it is difficult to get respite from the seagulls during daylight hours.

"The gulls start squawking from first light - which in the summer is as early as 4am - and carry on

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN



ABOVE: Two of the unwelcome squatters who have made their home at Richard's house.

until it gets dark. When they are sitting on my chimney pot, you can hear the noise down the chimney. The young seagulls squeak for food and it is an annoying, piercing sound."

There have even been instances of young seagulls falling down the chimneys. Richard's son rescued one gull from a neighbour's chimney and put it out in the garden to give it a chance of survival, only for a fight to develop between seagulls and a local fox.

Richard said the seagulls even fight among themselves - sometimes the young gulls from the previous year fight the parents for the nest when they return 'home'.

"The Vale Council's policy on their website is that home owners should deal with these pests using private contractors. But the problem is too big for single households to make a difference.

"I have a pair of her-



ABOVE: Richard Pierce is appealing to the Vale Council to deal with marauding seagulls in the Romilly Road area.

ring gulls that nest in between my chimney pots. I have tried the recommended defence of placing spikes between the pots, but they use them as a base to hold their nest!

"To get nets over a chimney costs £320 for the scaffolding and £150 for the netting - it means that for my three chimneys I could be up to almost £1,500.

"I am considering moving, because the noise is unbearable let alone the physical attacks.

"Even if I successfully move them from my chimneys, they will move to someone else's."

Richard said that the seagulls' reign of terror is prevalent in many places in the centre of Cardiff - except one location dear to the heart of every Welshman: the Millennium Stadium, where a bird of prey is employed to frighten them off.

He issued this appeal: "The gulls are protected by law, but what about us home owners? Come on, Vale Council, please take action against these vermin before someone does get hurt."

'PROTECTED' Alun Billingham, the head of public protec-

tion, at the Vale Council highlighted the fact that sea gulls are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and are not classed as vermin.

He explained: "It is an offence to kill or injure any birds, or their nests or eggs, unless acting under a licence - and only in compliance with the conditions of that licence.

"Government licences are issued, allowing owners or occupiers to kill certain species or destroy their nests and eggs in order to prevent serious damage to agriculture, preserve public health, or air safety or conserve other wild bird species.

"But even in these circumstances, it is illegal to do anything that will cause suffering to gulls."

Mr Billingham said that the council has no statutory duty to take action over gulls and does not currently have a specific resource for the general 'control and removal' of gulls or other wild birds.

He pointed out: "If gulls are fed regularly it will create an artificially high population and encourage further breeding pairs to take up residence in the area.

"A natural population level will be established only if the gulls are left to fend for themselves from natural food sources.

"It is best to prevent gulls building nests in the first place, so the council continues to recommend owners or occupiers of buildings, that have, or may attract roof nesting gulls, to provide the building with deterrent measures suitable to the individual building."

The three principal methods of deterring nuisance gulls outlined by the council are:

- Fitting wires or nets to prevent herring gulls landing.
- Fitting of short spikes, contained in a special plastic base, to nesting locations such as dormer roofs.
- Fitting of long spikes to nesting locations such as chimney stacks.

## Labour's choice

COUNCILLORS Howard Hamilton, Maggie Payne and Gwyneth Davey have been selected as Labour Party candidates on May 3 for the Barry Town Council in Cadoc ward.

## Barry Merchant Navy roll of honour is unveiled in Barry



Rev M Davies and Jim Greenway are pictured with members of the Barry Merchant Navy Association.

IN the 1920s, the people of Barry generated a fundraising campaign to establish the creation of a memorial for those who had given their lives in the fight for freedom in the First World War.

Their campaign enabled the Barry Memorial Hall Theatre to be built, which opened on November 11, 1932.

It was established as a registered charity in 1932 and is still managed by the Memorial Hall Theatre Trust today.

In 2007, the Trustees, led by Gareth Howe, decided to mark the buildings 75th anniversary by organising a fundraising campaign to undertake the restoration of the memorial and the hall of memory.

An important part of the 2007 restoration work included the creation of the Barry Merchant Navy Roll of Honour, in which an estimated 907 names

are recorded of all those Merchant Seamen who fell in World War I and World War II.

On Monday March 26, to mark the registration of the Roll of Honour with Imperial War Museum as a War Memorial, members of the Barry Merchant Navy Association held a dedication event and unveiled two new commemorative plaques installed for permanent display above the Roll of Honour in the Memorial Hall and Theatre hall of memory.

## PLEA ON PARKING

CASTLELAND councillor Chris Elmore has appealed to people catching trains at the Barry Dock station to use the new car park.

He said: "There is a new park and ride at the station which people should be using.

"At the moment some commuters are still parking on Kingsland Crescent and at the lower end of Dock View road which causes inconvenience and irritation to local residents.

"The park and ride is a far better facility and also has disabled access."

## Independent stand

EX-LABOUR Party member Robert Bertin has announced that he is to stand as an Independent for the Cadoc ward in Barry for the Vale Council elections on May 3.

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## Councillors to respond to the LDP plan after public meeting

A former Assembly Member, who lives in Dinas Powys, has offered to assist people who want help in putting forward their views to the Vale Council on the local development plan (LDP).

### Report by TIM CHAPMAN

Chris Franks' offer follows a meeting in the village, in which people discussed the subject of additional local housing.

The meeting was arranged by the Dinas Powys Community Council, and was chaired by Coun Chris Williams.

There are worries that up to 400 houses could be built locally. Housing is proposed at the St Cyres site, Murch Road and at Caerleon Road.

With plans for 10,000 homes across the Vale over the next 15 years, residents attending the meeting expressed fears concerning additional traffic at the main cross-roads in the Dinas Powys and at the junction with Cross Common Road.

Local people called on the community council to ensure that all the affected sections of the community knew how to make representations on the proposals.

Following the meeting, Coun Williams told The GEM: "We got the message that as community councillors we had to redouble our efforts and help residents through the maze of jargon contained in the planning consultation document. This we will do."

Former Plaid Cymru AM, Chris Franks, who also attended the meet-

ing, said that residents were looking for guidance as to how to make their views known.

He said he would be working with councillors to help residents.

He explained: "Representations must be made to the Vale Council by 5 pm on April 2.

"If I can be of any assistance with drafting comments or representations, please contact me on familyfranks@btinternet.com or on 07725 497 423.

"The Vale will provide more information on 01446 700111 or at the email LDP@vale-of-glamorgan.gov.uk."

People in Dinas Powys have said they are disappointed that no LDP exhibition is being held in the village, but the Vale Council has pointed out that a number of consultation events are being held across the area and that it is not practical to hold them in all communities.

Coun Jeff James, the cabinet member for planning, said recently that Coun Williams' was premature in calling the public meeting, adding: "The LDP is a key document that has been presented for consultation.

"This is the chance for people to have their say on the principle of development, whereas Coun Williams is dragging up matters that would be relevant if and when a planning application was submitted."

## SPECIAL SCHOOL PUPILS TELL NEW PLAID LEADER OF THEIR PROBLEMS



ABOVE: The Plaid leader with pupils from the school and fellow South Wales Central AMs Vaughan Gething, Eluned Parrot and David Melding.

LEANNE WOOD'S first public engagement as Plaid Cymru leader was to a special school in Penarth – to hear of problems with accessibility issues.

The regional AM for South Wales Central listened to pupils from Ysgol Erw'r Delyn describe their problems while on shopping trips. High kerbs out-

side fast-food restaurants, narrow spaces in store aisles and a lack of disabled parking provision were common themes in the Welsh capital.

The children of Ysgol Erw'r Delyn have been working with Mencap Cymru on a project looking at the accessibility issues facing users of motorised wheelchairs. Leanne Wood

commented: "I'm very pleased that my first visit as Plaid leader was to Ysgol Erw'r Delyn today.

"The students raised some very important issues and underlined the message that a lot more needs to be done on improving disabled access to the sort of places that able-bodied people take for granted."

## Writers in the making!



Author Alex Bell was on hand to provide guidance to pupils.

FOLLOWING a very successful author visit and workshop year-8 pupils at Bryn Hafren school were asked to submit their outline scripts for a 'Dark Romance' novel.

Winners were presented with their prizes at assembly.

Four pupils also won a signed copy of Alex Bell's book *Jasmyr* for giving the author feedback on the workshop sessions.

## Freedom of Penarth for the 580 Transport Squadron



580 Transport Squadron parade through Penarth, as they receive the freedom of the town.

IN an impressive ceremony at Penarth on March 17, the honorary freedom of the town was conferred on 580 (Glamorgan) Transport Squadron RLC (V).

The event was marked by an inspection of the troops in Lower Glebe Street by the Town Mayor, Coun Anthony Ernest, and Commanding Officer of the Welsh Transport Regiment RLC (V) Lt Colonel Dave Allen MBE RLC.

The Squadron, led by the Corp of Drums of the Welsh Transport Regiment and the Band of 150 (Yorkshire) Transport Regiment RLC (V), paraded through the town to All Saints Church, where a service was held.

Other civic and military dignitaries present included the Secretary of State for Wales, Cheryl Gillan MP, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, Mr Duncan Cantlay, the High Sheriff, Mr Roger Thomas, and the Mayor of the Vale Council, Coun John Clifford.

The service at All Saints Church was led

by the Rev Peter Cox supported by mayor's chaplain Rev Malcolm Davies, and the padre of the Welsh Transport Regiment RLC (V) Rev Michael Rowlands RACHD.

During the service, the Mayor presented an illuminated scroll to the Officer Commanding 580 Squadron, Major Herb Cameron, who presented the town with a superb bronze figure of the Welsh Transport Regiment Dragon.

A duplicate copy of the illuminated scroll and the bronze will be displayed at West House.

A reception was held at the Paget Rooms and guests and the troops were entertained by the Band of 150 (Yorkshire) Transport Regiment and the Corps of Drums of the Welsh Transport Regiment who performed a fluorescent light show.

Officer Commanding 580 Glamorgan Transport Squadron RLC (V), Major Herb Cameron said:

"The next time we parade through the town, we will do so with pride and with bayonets fixed, knowing that we have that time-honoured privilege of doing so."



Major Herb Cameron receives the illuminated scroll from the Penarth Mayor Coun Anthony Ernest.



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# As Waterfront unit is daubed with graffiti... 'We need new tenant in old Focus building' - SAYS LOCAL COUNCILLOR

A Barry councillor has been in touch with the Vale Council because he is concerned over the deteriorating state of the Focus store at the Waterfront.

Chris Elmore, who represents Castletand on the council, said he was already concerned that in such a short time since closing, the building was becoming a target for vandals.

He said: "Just four months after Focus shut, the building has graffiti on the walls and signs outside - it looks a mess."

"I've written to the visible services to point out what has happened."

"I also hope that the Vale Council is looking into the possibility of finding a new tenant for the building."

"We can't have a massive unit like this staying empty."

"What we need is a national chain store of some description to move in."

Coun Elmore pointed out that the current state of affairs meant the council was losing income and jobs had been lost to the area.

Two Barry residents, who were in the area while Coun

Elmore was inspecting the graffiti, expressed their disappointment that the site was empty.

Steve Williams, who is Barry born and bred and lives in Cadoxton, told The GEM: "I used to come to Focus to buy my paint. I don't like seeing the site empty."

"We need a new business to take over the premises to provide employment locally. We badly need jobs in the area."

Jacky Blake of Dock View Road said: "I often shop down at the Waterfront and it is horrible walking past it with the graffiti. It makes it look run down."

"We need a new store to move in."

The head of visible services at the Vale Council Miles Punter said the premises were owned by Morrisons.

He explained: "Officers are currently awaiting a response from their property agents on both their plans to re-let and their arrangements to address the current graffiti problem."

Mr Punter added: "The responsibility to protect private property from such vandalism lies with the property owner, though the council will remove graffiti from private property if it is considered to be offensive."

leisure and tourism at the Vale Council, said Open Access schemes would return in the future.

He told The GEM: "Unfortunately funding for play opportunities throughout Wales is under great pressure at the present time due to changes in a Welsh Government grant."

"Play schemes that have operated successfully in the Vale are under review at the present time, whilst effort is being made to secure long-term future funding in discussions with our partners."

Mr Knevet added: "It is great to hear the difference open access play schemes are making to individuals, and every effort is being made to ensure that they will reappear in the future."



ABOVE: Coun Chris Elmore is anxious to see a new tenant take over the former Focus building.

## The sight that 'welcomes' visitors



I HAVE noted with intent the damage to fencing at Ship Hill, Barry and also The Harbour Road side of Ship Hill in particular - Harbour Road at its junction with Park Avenue, which forms the gateway to Barry Island.

What a welcoming sight to all visitors of Barry Island when they descend the hill on Harbour Road toward The Island.

The wall protecting the public from straying down the railway embankment has been demolished by a motor vehicle and has had a temporary barrier in place for a number of years.

There is no sign of the wall ever being rebuilt, even though this has been taken up by myself on a number of occasions with the highways agency, Network Rail and Arriva Trains Wales.

It is the same story on the ascent from Barry Island on Ship Hill near the rail bridge.

The iron railings here were knocked out on two separate occasions and after the last mishap about four or five years ago it has still not been repaired.

On the Harbour Road Causeway leading to Barry Island, two or three sections of railings have suffered the same fate in recent years and show no signs of being repaired.

This is something that many Barry residents continue to complain about.

The council in Barry and the Vale is due a major wake-up call. **Barrie V Evans** (Independent candidate, Baruc ward)

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## SOUNDS OF JAZZ AT DINAS POWYS



Busy bar staff - councillors Keith Hatton and Val Hartrey, helping at the Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern jazz concert.



ABOVE: Tom Peterken (trombone), Anna Stewart (trumpet) and Joseph Keenan (sax) perform at the Big Band concert.

A JAZZ evening organised on behalf of Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern marked the start of the 40th anniversary of the founding of DPVC.

The event raised much needed funds for the charity, as The Cardiff and Vale Youth Jazz Orchestra provided an excellent night's entertainment.

CYJO's repertoire includes standards from the likes of Duke

Ellington, Glen Miller and Count Basie, as well as modern compositions and arrangements.

Powys Voluntary Concern is a charity to serve the needs of the elderly and less mobile members of the village community.

New volunteers are welcome. Contact Wendy Lees on 02920 513700 or call in to the office to the rear of the Murchfield Hall, Sunnycroft Lane, Dinas Powys.CF

## Six in court

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Prosecutor David Pugh said that on May 15 last year, at about 10.20pm, Tanya Sheldon was in her home in Dawan Close, Barry, with her three children. She was watching television with Katie Bisgrove and Shaun McGrath.

They heard a banging outside and Drew said he wanted to speak to Miss Bisgrove with whom he had once had a relationship.

He went in, and five others appeared, who also barged their way in. "Once inside, they behaved in a frightening manner. Mr McGrath, a vulnerable person, was kicked and punched to the head as he sat on the sofa."

Miss Sheldon was pushed against the stairs, and a coffee table was smashed and part of the kitchen ransacked. Everybody was extremely distressed by the incident.

The police were called and the gang ran off. Some were arrested while trying to hide, said Mr Pugh.

At the scene, Vaughan stole two watches and two pairs of sunglasses.

Said the judge: "This was a thoroughly disgraceful incident and over the last ten months, it appears you appreciate and regret your involvement."

"A vulnerable person was present, who was not only attacked, but received a degree of humiliation. A pregnant woman was also there."

## Play group to be disbanded

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Clare added: "One disabled youngster who has attended the sessions with Keiran just loved running about."

"My four-year-old son, Owen, was looking forward to joining his brother in November, but we understand that the last session will take place this Saturday, March 31."

Clare understands that there may be other Open Access locations across the Vale in danger.

She said: "It is a safe environment and better than children walking the streets. I'd like the Vale Council to have a rethink, and hope Open Access can be saved."

Dave Knevet, the operational manager for

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# Oak Field pupils enjoy an arts week



Beat out that rhythm on a drum...

**RECENTLY, Oak Field Primary School held a very successful arts week, which was sponsored by Gibbonsdown Court and Communities First.**

Various artists came to the school and took workshops with all year groups in the school.

The artists were: Richard Berry, a storyteller who helped the older children to create 'visual memory aids' as a starting point to writing their own stories;

Kate Williams, a poet who worked with the younger and older pupils in composing their own poetry about the sea;

Jo Clifford, a ceramic artist who helped the children make 3-D butterflies, bumble bees, etc for a mural to go on the outside wall;

Rachel Bowen-Jones, a dancer who enthralled the children with her 'hip-hop' dance style and successfully engaged the older children in learning a dance;

Porthcawl Percussionists, superbly led by Dave Murphy, who inspired the children to create a catchy percussion rhythm as well as successfully developing their drumming skills;

A magician, Jack from Porthcawl, who astonished the children and parents with his amazing tricks!

Headteacher Lynne Bowen-Jones said: "The whole week was fantastic and the children had a wonderful time. I am sure the children will never forget their experiences with the different artists.

"Their skills were developed in so many enjoyable ways – composing poetry, creating stories, dance, music and artistic expression. Small performances and short recitals were held at end of the week to celebrate all the work.

"Parents and governors came along to support this special week, and we were delighted when Jane Hutt AM



Oak Field Primary School pupils with the AM.

from the Welsh Assembly turned up to celebrate this week with us as well.

"Our thanks and appreciation go to Gibbonsdown Court and Communities First for providing the children with these wonderful experiences."

Jane Hutt said: "Congratulations to the staff, pupils and parents of Oak Field Primary School, for organising such an inspiring afternoon to celebrate their work during their arts week.

"I was very impressed with the poetry, dancing, drumming, art work, storytelling – all presented with confidence by the pupils who had clearly benefited so much from this arts week supported by the Gibbonsdown and Court Communities First Partnership, funded by the Welsh Government."



ABOVE: Let's play the music and dance...

## 'Fast food litter blight on Barry' – says councillor

**A BARRY councillor is calling on the Vale Council to encourage local 'fast food' businesses to convert to using minimal and bio-degradable packaging.**

Labour councillor Rob Curtis, who represents Gibbonsdown ward in Barry, said: "The blight of 'fast food litter' can be seen everywhere, from our hedgerows and parks to our beaches and rivers. Yet the

council could help reduce this ugly sight by convincing 'fast food' businesses to reduce the amount of packaging and by converting to biodegradable packaging.

"We still need to educate and fine offenders who litter but at least we could reduce the amount ending up on our streets and making sure that what does end up in our parks and hedgerows is biodegradable in a matter of weeks instead of decades."



Are you ready percussion section?

## NEWS FROM THE BARRY MEN'S FORUM

### Speaker recalls wartime service in the Royal Navy

**ALAN HIGGINS, who was born in Barry only four years after the First World War formally ended, spoke to the Forum of his experiences during World War II.**

With many others who served, they turned out to be quite horrendous, especially when he was involved in getting supplies through to the Soviet Union sailing through icy and perilous seas.

Just before the war started in 1939, he had gone into Cardiff in an attempt to join the RAF, but without success.

His older brother was in the Navy and so, following his example, he went to the Naval Recruitment Office next door where he was accepted.

He soon found himself at Devonport where he was told he had the capability to train in the important communications branch. His year's course included getting up to speed as a Morse Code operator, and he

needed to operate at three words per second to pass his exams.

Strange to say that, once trained, he was never required to use this skill, but always found himself sending semaphore signals or decoding them from the radio.

After being posted to the HMS. Edinburgh, Alan discovered he had a rare propensity to suffer from acute sea-sickness. He never became immune from this and found it no consolation to be told that Admiral Lord Nelson was similarly affected.

Our speaker was pleased to find his ship moved to the seas off Iceland for the simple reason that the amount of ice around made it difficult for German submarines to target them.

He was then moved to the south to render assistance to Malta, where his ship was torpedoed by the Italian Air Force.

Ships in his group had several tussles, also with the Royal Italian Navy, and it is sometimes for-

gotten today that at that time it was the fourth largest in the world.

Shortly after this he sailed to Freetown, where he met his brother (then serving on HMS Repulse), who warned him not to attempt to join him on the Repulse, as it was known to be an unlucky ship.

This seems to have been the case, for some six months later it was sunk, although Alan's brother survived.

After finally being granted seven days leave in Barry, Alan soon found himself on Russian convoy duty, where he vividly remembers large German Condor aircraft signalling to waiting nearby u-boats, who would then move in for the kill with their torpedoes.

Our speaker's ship was crippled in this way and he lost many ship mates, narrowly escaping with his own life.

After his ship was taken into tow by British and Russian cruisers, they found themselves coming under fire from

more nearby Nazi warships.

A strange thing then happened which astounded Mr Higgins. Three very lightly-armed British minesweepers advanced towards the German Cruisers who, possibly mistaking them for larger British ships, retreated in haste, leaving our speaker to fight another day!

This he did, spending five months in Russia at one point. He completed 15 years' service, ending it during the Korean War.

We have every hope of persuading this former mariner to return at a later date to tell us about 'phase two' of his service.

On March 29, Don Gerrard will speak on 'Smugglers in the Bristol Channel'. Meetings are held every Thursday at 10.30am in the hall of the United Reformed Church in Barry. New members welcome. For further details, contact 01292 594881.

MAC TANNER

## MEMORIAL LUNCH HEARS OF POVERTY CHARITY'S WORK



Speaker Lucy Dickenson (far right) with Rene Gannon, Winnie Davies, Lynda Wallis and Jane Hutt.

**THE 11th Dorothy Rees memorial lunch was held in St Andrew's Golf Club, Barry, hosted by Jane Hutt AM, when the guest speaker was Lucy Dickenson from the Safe Foundation.**

She explained that the UK charity was founded in 2007 to assist in alleviating poverty in developing countries.

### QUESTION...

**Did you know you can read your GEM online?**  
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# Funding boost, but more to be done for Barry regeneration

**WITH tighter public finances and a cut to our grant by the UK Coalition Government, it is vital that the Welsh Government chooses its priorities for spending carefully, to invest in our economy, communities and public services.**

We chose to give a fairer financial settlement to local government in Wales, than any other part of the UK, resulting in a 1.4 per cent increase to our grants to local authorities.

We have put extra funding into schools and social services and we are creating 4,000 jobs for 16-25 year olds from April 1 each year for the next three years.

We have doubled our investment in Flying Start providing free childcare and parenting support to the most disadvantaged children and families in our commu-

nities and we have continued to invest in the regeneration of towns like Barry with the support of the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

We have also increased the funding of the Health Service by £288m this year and uplifted funding for social housing by £22m. All through careful financial management.

I was delighted to welcome Huw Lewis AM, the Minister for Housing and Regeneration to Barry Island this week, to announce the latest Welsh Government Barry regeneration grant of £58,000 for the upgrading and refurbishment of the Barry Lifeguard Station – home to both St John Ambulance and Whitmore Bay Surf Life Saving Club.

This is vital for the residents of Barry and the visitors who are already flocking here in these warm spring days!

A few weeks ago, the Adizone was opened on Barry Island – with outdoor keep fit facilities –

also funded by the Welsh Government under the Barry Regeneration Plan.

Regeneration Funding by the Welsh Government of £1,618,332 already allocated for 2012/13 is also supporting the re-building of the Gibbonsdown Childrens Centre which houses Flying Start provision, out of school and holiday childcare as well as community activities.

Alongside the Children's Centre will be a £200,000 package of improvements to Pencoedre Park, including converting the paddling pool to splash pad, upgrading the WC facilities, renewing the play area and lighting.

There are many more announcements of Welsh Government funds this week as part of the regeneration programme including a wheelchair access boat at Barry Yacht Club for local use with the Vale Intersensory Club for 250 children, young people and adults with severe learning disabili-

ties in the Barry area.

Did you know that there are 2,734 wheelchair users in the Vale? This £22,500 grant will provide opportunities for disabled people to enjoy boating in Barry.

Other sporting enthusiasts will be pleased with the Barry Rugby Club expansion of clubhouse facilities, particularly supporting access for young people who play for the club and the community garden to be developed by the Methodist Church in Barry Waterfront Phase1 will provide much-needed community gardens alongside a temporary community building by the Waterfront Medical Centre.

The town centre will benefit from a Welsh Government regeneration grant for the New Jerusalem Church Community Project in Ty Newydd Road, with additional funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

In the last tranche of funding, the newly-refurbished Castleland

## ASSEMBLY NOTES



by Vale AM **JANE HUTT**  
(Minister for Finance and Leader of the House)

Community Centre got £20,000 towards the superb upgrading of the building with major Big Lottery Funding support.

This is all good news for the regeneration of Barry with the backing of partners from the public, private and voluntary sector who sit on the Regeneration Board. However, there is still much more to be done for Barry with Welsh Government investment and commitment. That was my message to my colleague, Huw Lewis AM, on Tuesday.

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## NEWS FROM BARRY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

# TEACHERS BECOME AUTHORS FOR NEW TEXT BOOK



ABOVE: Frederick Berchie and Emmanuel Tumfour presenting Barry Comprehensive School's Global School Partnership Team with a handcrafted leather plaque

AT the end of last term, Professor David Egan visited Barry Comprehensive School to celebrate the publishing of a book on action research in Welsh classrooms.

Five teachers at the school have contributed essays to the book. Each essay outlines individual strategies adopted by teachers, and office departments, with the key purpose of raising standards and increasing student opportunities.

All five teachers, Ms Sian Morgan, Mrs Gemma Seville, Mr Mark Hutton, Mrs Lyndsay Davies and Mr David Williams have taken on higher continued professional development, supported by the school.

We would like to pass on thanks to Professor Egan who worked hard to edit and publish the book, with the support of the local education authority.

LAST December, Barry Comprehensive welcomed two teachers from Jubben Senior High School, Ghana, to

strengthen the Global School Partnership between the two institutions.

Eighteen months ago, Barry Comprehensive art teacher Miss McCormick travelled to Ghana to develop an international link on multicultural education. Since the initial visit, the project has grown tremendously with teachers and students across the curriculum becoming involved.

Thanks to a successful application for funding from the British Council and fundraising within Barry

Comprehensive, the two Ghanaian teachers were able to leave their country for the first time and visit Wales.

During the visit Mr Frederick Berchie and Mr Emmanuel Tumfour followed a lively timetable of lesson observations, cultural trips, staff meetings and extracurricular activities.

Through these activities, staff established a strong working relationship about their diverse cultures and teaching styles. The Ghanaians enjoyed trips to the

Senedd and The Museum of Welsh Life, and were particularly impressed with a tour of our local churches given by school governor, Mr Graham Ellis.

Staff and students welcomed the Ghanaian teachers into their classrooms, and for the first time were able to ask them direct questions about their culture and traditions, gaining invaluable information and context that goes beyond internet search engine results.

Rhys Primary School invited the Ghanaians to their annual exhibition of year-6 art work, which was based on Ghanaian culture and included work created during a year-6 visit to Barry Comprehensive. Louise Lynn, head-



ABOVE: Barry Comprehensive School teachers Mr David Williams, Mrs Lyndsay Davies, Mrs Gemma Seville, Ms Sian Morgan and Mr Mark Hutton contributed essays to 'Developing Teachers and Leaders in Effective Schools'



Frederick Berchie and Emmanuel Tumfour with Headteacher Louise Lynn and pupils at Rhys Primary School

teacher of Rhys Primary School, was delighted to welcome our visitors and spoke highly of the art work and discussed ways the primary school could take part in the international partnership.

The charity 'Show Racism the Red Card' invited the Ghanaians to their annual presentation event at Cardiff City Football Club. Miss McCormick had contacted the charity for support. In a project with the charity, both schools collaborated on

a winning competition entry that celebrated cultural diversity.

The week finished with the Ghanaian teachers presenting Mr Swallow, who had supported the Global School Partnership from the outset, with a traditional hand woven gown and hand carved stool on his retirement.

On February 7, Helen McCormick returned to Ghana with Dale Gamble, head of chemistry, to strengthen the partnership further and begin the classroom

based activities which have been formed collaboratively.

The teachers were weighed down with supplies donated by friends, colleagues and organisations, including the NASLWT and Show Racism the Red Card. Mark Stock, director of local company Paternoster Consulting, generously donated a laptop with the aim of improving communications between the two schools.

## LOCAL SPEAKER TELLS OF BARRY'S FALLEN HEROES

'More than Just Names' was the title of a talk by local historian Dr Jonathan Hicks to an audience of more than 100 people highlighting names commemorated on two war memorials at Barry's All Saints' Church.

The memorial plaque on the south aisle commemorates those of World War One; the North aisle memorial plaque of World War Two. Relatives of those lost during World War Two were also in the audience.

The speaker gave many examples of individuals and brothers who had made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. An interesting fact was that Barry recruited more men to serve in World War One than anywhere else in Wales.

He spoke of John Allred West who had been married for just six months when he took part in the invasion of Normandy. Serving with the 4th Battalion Welch Regiment, he died of his wounds in July 1944, aged 28.

He had attended Romilly Road School and was a member of All Saints Church. Before joining the church he

was employed by Monk's Butchers and had been a member of the Special Police Force in the early part of the war before enlisting in 1940.

His mother worked in the Dorothy Café and he was also trainer for Barry Shop Assistants AFC.

James Edward Luen, a chief officer in the Merchant Navy who had attended High Street School before going to sea in 1910, served in the Royal Naval Reserve throughout World War One on the Dover Patrol and also spent some time as a sheep farmer in Australia.

He and his family lived at Woy Woy, a bungalow at the bottom of Cold Knap Way. James and his wife Violet had married in the town of Woy Woy in Australia.

James died at the age of 43 on November 25, 1939 off the coast of Newfoundland/Nova Scotia, when a wave crashed into the ship and he was washed overboard.

The presentation was supported by an exhibition which made the whole event and evening come alive. Supporting Jonathan,

Paul Kemp and Simon Lee were on hand to discuss and answer questions from the audience and provide the history of artefacts, which consisted of medals, documentation and other war memorabilia.

At the end of the talk, the speaker presented Father Adrian Berry with a booklet containing the stories and photographs shared during the evening as a historical document for the church.

Father Adrian Berry

thanked him and his team, stating that "All Saints' Church are very grateful for the historical record and we must not forget that these individuals were part of the community of Barry many living just a few streets and roads away".

Father Adrian also thanked the fundraising committee and others for their hard work and making the evening such a success. A total of £502 was raised during the evening.

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## VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

# 'Putting the reforming Budget into context'

**L**AST WEEK, George Osborne delivered a radical, reforming Budget that rewards work, backs businesses and puts us on the side of those who aspire to do better for themselves and their families.

It is worth remembering that in spite of the cuts introduced thus far, the Government is still borrowing a quarter of every penny it spends; this relates to everything from teachers and nurses' salaries to benefits and pensions.

That's a loan or overdraft to pay £25 out of every £100 being spent on salaries, roads, social services and refuse collection and all other responsibilities.

This is why we are paying £120m a day in interest on the debt and the debt is still rising. Anyone running a household budget or a business knows that we can't continue on this basis.

Therefore, we must get on top of the debt and also stimulate investment to get the economy moving again.

That's what the Chancellor sought to continue doing last week.

This Budget reaffirms our unwavering commitment to deal with Britain's record debts.

But because we've already taken difficult decisions, I believe this can also be a Budget that seeks to repair the disastrous model of economic growth that created those debts.

The Chancellor outlined far-reaching tax reforms, including the largest ever increase in the personal tax allowance that will benefit 24 million ordinary families and pensioners across the UK.

Personal Allowance has increased to £9,205. This change will lift an additional 42,000 people in Wales out of income tax and will be a tax cut for 1.1 million individuals. This Government will have lifted a total of 93,000 people in Wales out of income tax altogether.

As a result of historic lower salaries in Wales, we are set to benefit to a greater degree.

The top rate of income tax is being reduced to 45p,



**Vale MP Alun Cairns reports to GEM readers**

so Britain no longer has the highest rate of income tax in the G20. The rate amounted to 68 per cent when National Insurance was added and undermined plans to attract international

business people and investors and our competitiveness.

Evidence also showed that it was raising very little because the richest found ways to avoid paying it.

As a result, the wealthiest in society will end up paying up to five times more under the new regime to crack down on tax avoidance and to pay much higher stamp duty.

**Pensions**  
Naturally, I've received much correspondence from pensioners, who are worried about their personal circumstances.

But, as soon as I present the economic situation facing us all, many have understood the difficulties and changes that have been made.

It is also worth remembering that the last government froze allowances in three different budgets – and at a time when money was much more readily available.

The impact will have an effect, but I hope that the greater increase in the personal allowance will go some way to reducing the

impact. Half of all pensioners will not be affected by this measure. This April pensioners will also receive the largest ever cash increase in the basic state pension of £5.30 per week.

This Budget unashamedly backs business. An additional one per cent cut in corporation tax will provide a much needed boost for investment and jobs.

Britain will have the lowest rate in the G7 by April 2014 and it is a sign to the rest of the world that Britain is open for business.

In only the last week, a leading business has already announced that it will move its business base to the UK from Ireland.

The Government also committed to work with the Welsh Government to consider electrification of the Vale and Cardiff railway lines subject, with a potential package of around £300m.

Again, the state of the nation's debt is unprecedented and any politician calling for a reduction in tax in one area needs to explain where the tax should be increased.

## MP joins call to help out the struggling pubs

**THE** Vale MP, Alun Cairns, said last week that he was joining other MPs in calling on the Government to commission an independent review of pub company self-regulation, after Vale publicans told him of their difficulties.

Mr Cairns explained: "It is clear that a number of local pubs are struggling. I was keen to find

out from the Minister what hope he could give to the many thousands of tied publicans, typically earning less than £15,000 a year, who are struggling financially."

"The large pub companies are failing to live up to the promises made to Government last year, and must publish national company price lists to ensure market transparency."

"This should also mean that rent assessment statements are fully justified with evidence."

## 'Local proposals are unsustainable'

**THE** next meeting of Barry and Vale Friends of the Earth Group, will be on Tuesday, April 3, at 7.30pm in the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street, Barry.

The group's responses to the Local Development Plan, have already taken shape, with housing, waste and energy objections being outlined.

FoE believe it is vital that residents and organisations take time out to take part in the consultation on the future of the

Vale. We agree with many people we have spoken to, that while the proposed housing developments at the Waterfront, Barry Island, Port Road and Rhosee will ease the housing shortage and bring local jobs, the lack of infrastructure improvements make these proposals unsustainable – yet sustainability is at the heart of our Government's constitution.

**Keith Stockdale**  
Barry and Vale FoE Co-ordinator

## Vale Foodbank's increasing role



Jane Hutt AM with volunteer Christine Chandler.

A FAMILY event organised at Coastlands Community Church, Barry on March 24, to raise funds for the Vale Foodbank, was supported by Jane Hutt, AM for the Vale.

She commented: "The Vale Foodbank is playing an increasingly important role in supporting individuals and families in Barry and the wider Vale."

The Foodbank provides nutritious food to people who are in need.

"Vouchers for the Foodbank are provided by Social Services, the CAB, Atal y Fro and housing associations in the Vale and over 800 boxes have been provided since the Foodbank opened

last year."

To make a donation to the Vale Foodbank, or to find out further information, contact 07973 388906.

## PACT meetings

**BARUC** – neighbourhood officers will be holding a surgery on Sunday April 1 at Amherst Crescent between 5pm and 6pm, and on April 2 at Marine Drive between 6pm and 7pm.

Look out for **TREV** – The Reassurance and Engagement Vehicle. **DYFAN** and **GIBBONSDOWN** – officers will be holding a joint surgery with **TREV** – The Reassurance and Engagement Vehicle at Keats Way on Monday April 2 between 2pm and 4pm.

**GIBBONSDOWN** – 2.30pm on Wednesday April 4 at the residents Board Office, Coychurch Rise, Barry.

**PENLLYN** – coffee and chat meeting, April 4 at the Red Fox Pub, Penlllyn at 11am.

**BUTTRILLS PACT** – 6.30pm, April 5 at The Philip John Community Room, Barry Library.

**SULLY** – Jubilee Hall, April 5 at 8pm.

## One-hour 'blackout' at the Vale Council

**THERE** will be a one hour 'blackout' at Vale Council offices on Saturday, March 31 at 8.30pm – to mark 'Earth Hour'.

The annual World Wildlife Fund Earth Hour asks people to switch off their lights for an hour to show concern about the effects of climate change.

The Vale Council has pledged support and is asking local residents to take part.

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# IOLO MORGANNWG AND THE GORSEDD

IOLO Morgannwg was the most colourful and brilliant character to have been born in the Vale.

He was a poet, literary fraudster, stonemason, inventor of traditions and republican. He was also creator of one of the most important ceremonies of the National Eisteddfod: Gorsedd y Beirdd.

Born Edward Williams in Llanccannan in 1747, his family moved to Flenington when he was a small child. He later chose Iolo Morgannwg as his bardic name.

Iolo followed in his father's footsteps and became a stonemason. He received an education and claimed to have learnt to read and write by helping his father carve the lettering upon gravestones in the Vale.

Iolo's work can be seen in St Athan Church, where he carved the memorial stone to the Spencer family.

Iolo Morgannwg spent several brief periods in London, where he was greatly influenced by the French and the American Revolution.

Tom Paine had published his 'Rights of Man' in support of the French Revolution in 1791. Iolo

wrote many poems supporting the Republican cause and called himself 'The poet of Freedom'. For the Society of Journeymen Masons he wrote: 'Well pleased with our station we merrily sing and pity the lag that's no more than a king.'

In 1795, Iolo returned to Flenington, where he started his career as a forger of poetry. He greatly admired the work of Dafydd ap Gwilym, who had lived in the 14th century, and sought to emulate his style of poetry and passion for his own.

He succeeded and his poetry, brilliant in its own right, was regarded as that of Dafydd ap Gwilym. Not until the 20th century was the deception uncovered, when Professor Griffith John Williams of University College Cardiff, after detailed study, unveiled the poems as those of Iolo.

He spun many romantic tales about places in the Vale such as Beaupre Castle, and it's quite probable that many of the myths are still in circulation to this day.

His greatest invention, probably under the influence of opium, may have been his Gorsedd of Bardis. Iolo announced that he had

"discovered" the history of the bards of ancient Britons, which he claimed to have been transmitted orally from one generation to the next. He said: "With respect to the traditions themselves as one of the order, I feel a propensity in common with a few remaining members to preserve amongst ourselves unaltered except at a Gorsedd, those very curious remnants as an incitement to preserve the system."

People swallowed this bardic fiction and The Gorsedd of Bardis first appeared on Stalling Down, near Cowbridge, in 1819.

However, it is doubtful whether the Gorsedd would have survived but for its links with the

Eisteddfod. The first Eisteddfod was held in Cardigan in 1176. But the first Eisteddfod in which the Gorsedd actively played a part was at Carmarthen in 1819.

The Gorsedd's structure and practices were simpler in its early days and the Gorsedd Stanes were very small. It's developed over the years, and the Gorsedd supplies a unique pageantry.

It honours Eisteddfod winners in the field of poetry, prose and lately music and architecture. It also acts as a 'Welsh honours system', and creates new members in honour of their contribution to Welsh life in many different spheres.

JANIE JONES

Walk the Vale for brain tumour awareness

A WALK with the Ed Evans Foundation to raise awareness of brain tumours will take place on Easter Monday (April 9) starting from The Horseshoes, Marcrass.

"This is one of the many sponsored walks taking place around the world raising awareness to the plight of brain tumour patients, their families and friends," a spokeswoman said.

Details and sponsor forms are available at www.edevansfoundation.co.uk or by calling 01654 890217.

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# Out and About with The GEM

## Eisteddfod quiz

THERE will be an English language quiz at St Francis Millennium Hall, Park Road, Barry, this Saturday (March 31) at 7pm.

Tickets £6 to include light refreshment; bring your own wine. Profits towards the National Eisteddfod in Llandow this year.

Tickets from Heulwen Cooper on 01446 733784.

## Library

**storytime**  
SATURDAY Storytime - Cowbridge Library is running a free Storytime this Saturday, March 31, from 11am-11.30am for children aged between five and nine years old. For more information, contact the library on 01446 773041.

## Spring fayre

AGE CONCERN are holding their spring fayre at The Senior Health Shop on Monday, April 2 will be opened at 10am by Jane Hutt AM.

A wide range of attractive stalls - cakes, bric-a-brac, craft tombola and home made preserves with a raffle. Admission free. All proceeds of the event are for the refurbishment of The Senior Health Shop. For more details, contact 01446 732385.

## Archbishop leads Holy Week services

HOLY Week services at Barry's three main Anglican churches will be led by the Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan.

The climax will be on Good Friday, when he will lead a Good Friday two-mile Walk of Christian Witness.

On Palm Sunday, a walk starts at Barry Castle at 9.30am led by a donkey, re-enacting Christ's entry into Jerusalem. The morning service at All Saints Church will then be led by Archbishop Barry Morgan.

Evening services led by the Archbishop, during Holy Week, will all be at 7.30pm beginning on April 2 at St Paul's Church in St Paul's Avenue, Tuesday at All Saints, and on April 4 at St Mary's Church in Holton Road.

The Good Friday Christian walk will start from Parade Gardens at 12 noon and go via Broad Street to King Square, where there will be a Good Friday service at 2pm.

Barry College has made a wooden cross to be carried in the procession.

## Easter services

THE following events are being held at Crossway Methodist

Church, Court Road and Saint David's Methodist Church, Winston Road during Holy Week: Monday April 2, Crossway - messy church (for children), 3.30pm-5.15pm. April 3, Crossway - reflective service with Holy Communion at 7.30pm. April 5, Saint David's - 'Tenebrae'; this is a service of light and shadows to watch with Jesus at 7.30pm.

On Good Friday, at The Gathering Place, church and community centre, St Athan, there will be a children's Good Friday activity from 10am-12 noon.

In Barry, the Methodist churches, and others, are invited to join in with the Barry Churches' Walk of Witness, starting from 12 noon at Parade Gardens.

Easter Sunday (April 8) - sunrise service at The Amelia Trust Farm at 6am (breakfast rolls will be available).

Saint David's Easter Day worship with Holy Communion at 9.45am, and at Crossway - worship with Holy Communion at 11am. St Athan's service is at 10.30am.

For more information contact the ministers, Rev Peter and Deacon Samantha Taylor, on 01446 406262, or email revpeter@live.co.uk.

## Flower demo

THE Cowbridge and District Flower Arrangers Club will hold a meeting at 7.30pm on April 4 in Ramoth Church Hall, Cowbridge (note change of venue).

Pat Llewellyn will give a demonstration entitled 'What Comes Next?'

## Easter eggs for charity

PARK Independent Funeral Directors of Tynwydd Road, Barry, are looking for

donations of Easter eggs in aid of Barnardo's, which will be handed to the charity on Wednesday, April 4.

Principal Lindsay Ellis is taking part in the first annual Good Friday walk starting at Barry's west end and ending in the Garden of Reflection at New Jerusalem Church.

The walk will be carried out by all denominations and churches within Barry, and will be led by the Archbishop of Wales. This will take place on Good Friday at 12 noon from the Parade Gardens.

## Family fun

THE Bridgend Family Information Service will be hosting a free exhibition and fun day for children aged 0-10 years accompanied by adults between 10am and 3pm on Thursday, April 5 at Bridgend Recreation Centre, Angel Street, Bridgend.

Free activities for the children throughout the day, include Crazy Karts, bouncy castle, soft play, face painting and craft activities.

This year's theme is the Olympics and for 'grown-ups' there will be practical information on services available for families in the borough.

Contact 0800 180 4320 or email familyinfo@bridgend.gov.uk.

## British Legion social evening

A SOCIAL evening is being held at the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge, for the Royal British Legion on April 12.

Bingo starts at 7.30pm. Doors open at 7pm, and everyone is welcome.

## Marathon cycle ride

IAN LIDDIATT of Ashgrove School will

be cycling nearly 300 miles in two days to raise much needed funds for the school bike club.

He plans to leave Ashgrove school on the morning of Tuesday, May 22, cycle to Portsmouth, catch an overnight ferry to Le Havre and then cycle to the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

The gruelling trip will take approximately 14 hours of cycling, during which time Ian will need to consume approximately 15,000 calories!

If anybody would like to sponsor Ian for this mammoth ride, or even come and wave him off at the start, please contact the school or email a.wilde@ashgroveschool.org.

## Older People's Forum AGM

THE Vale Older People's Strategy Forum is holding its annual general meeting on Thursday, 28 June from 9am to 1pm, at the Glamorgan Suite, Memorial Hall, Barry.

Andrew Bertie from Scambusters will be guest speaker at the meeting.

Forum members who wish to attend should contact Tegan Twigg on 01446 731628, or email tetwigg@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

The Older People's Strategy Forum Executive Group is currently recruiting new members. All forms must be returned to 1st Floor Barry Fire Station, Port Road West, Barry CF62 3AZ before 5pm on April 19. For more information, contact Tegan Twigg on 01446 731628.

# There's laughs-a-plenty on 21 Jump Street!

SINCE rising through the ranks alongside the likes of Seth Rogen and Paul Rudd as the new kings of comedy, Jonah Hill has continued to raise laughs with the likes of *Superbad* and *Get Him To The Greek*, while showing his acting chops with a supporting role in last year's *Moneyball*, which landed him a best supporting actor nomination.

Hill is back on comedy duty, however, in his latest film, an update of 80's TV series *21 Jump Street*.

Hill and Channing Tatum play Schmidt and Jenko, two police officers who, after an arrest mix-up, are transferred into an undercover operation which sees the two of them in high school tracking down a drugs ring; but will the pair be able to track down the guilty party while getting used to being back in school...

Another week, another film taking its cues from the past; but while *21 Jump Street* doesn't get points for originality, it certainly makes for entertaining and humorous comedy that will satisfy those who enjoy the boundary-pushing laughs that are the current trend.

With his background it's no surprise that Jonah Hill fits into the film like a glove, the actor delivering his usual

## SCREEN TALK



by  
**GARETH JAMIESON**

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performance and delivering a high laugh rate, his comic delivery as sharp as ever. His chemistry with Channing Tatum is key here and they make for a watchable pair, Tatum a comedic revelation in his role.

Known more for serious turns, Tatum offers a performance not unlike Mark Wahlberg's in *The Other Guys*, showing a hitherto unseen comedic touch that is all the more entertaining for having seen his dramatic side.

Alongside the pair are a raft of decent turns, from the likes of Brie Larson as Hill's love interest, Ice Cube as the pair's foul-mouthed police captain, Dave Franco as the slimy drug dealer and Rob Riggle

and Ellie Kemper as teachers to the undercover police officers.

Directed by Phil Lord and Chris Miller, the film manages to marshal the comedy effectively while adding a degree of panache with some action sequences that gently poke fun at convention, while Michael Bacall's screenplay (he wrote the storyline with Hill) is wonderful, mining the school world without resorting to lazy stereotyping. Bacall has the right feel for the material, the jokes knowing but never too knowing, while any shortcomings in the narrative itself are offset by a decent hit rate for the gags.

*21 Jump Street* certainly won't re-define comedy, but as regards doing what you would want it to, the film doesn't disappoint, the end result making for a satisfying trip to the cinema.

The negatives don't affect the enjoyment of the final product, and another trip to *Jump Street* certainly wouldn't be one that would be too unwelcome!

**VERDICT** - A strong comedy that delivers laughs-a-plenty, *21 Jump Street* is a smooth updating of the TV series. With Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum on top form, the film ticks all the boxes and, if you find this comedy appealing, certainly won't disappoint. *Enjoyable.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Superbad* (2007), *The Other Guys* (2010).

## Charity tractor run

THE 'Tractor Boys of Aberthyn' will be holding a vintage tractor run on Sunday April 22 in aid of the Ed Evans Foundation and the Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing and Hedging Society.

Starting from Frank Sutton Agriculture Dealer, St Mary Hill, at 9.30am with coffee and tea to start. Lunch at Race Track Cafe, Llandow. Entrance is £10 tractor and £5 for lunch. For more information contact Basil on 01656 654440, Martyn on 07973 889712 or Jeff on 07544 725223.

## Vale Festival

THIS year's Vale of Glamorgan Festival will take place from May 1-11 in venues across the Vale and Cardiff.

It will celebrate two significant birthdays: Danish composer Per Nørgård's 80th and Philip Glass's 75th; as well as commemorating two tragedies over the last 100 years, the sinking of the Titanic and the demise of Robert Scott and his companions on their ill-fated expedition to the Antarctic.

There will be performances of Per Nørgård's second symphony and *Iris* by BBC National Orchestra of Wales, as well as a wide range of chamber pieces by the Danish based Ensemble MidtVest and

Ars Nova Copenhagen. Philip Glass's birthday is marked with a performance of his *Violin Concerto* by Chloë Hanslip and BBC National Orchestra of Wales, performances of his string quartets by The Mavron Quartet a screening of Peter Greenaway's bio-pic and a performance of *Glassworks* by the Gilt Ensemble.

The centenary of both the sinking of the Titanic and the death of Scott of the Antarctic is commemorated with Gavin Bryars' seminal *The Sinking of the Titanic* and a festival commission by one of Bryars' pupils Craig Vear.

Full details at [www.valeofglamorgan-festival.org.uk](http://www.valeofglamorgan-festival.org.uk).

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## Pupils plant 1,000 trees to 'green the workplace'



Pupils from Bridgend and the Vale were given a hand with the tree planting by Vale AM Jane Hutt.

CHILDREN from the Vale and Bridgend took part in an event organised by UNISON, in partnership with the Woodland Trust, at the Penlyn Estate near Cowbridge – to plant over 1,000 trees as part of the Jubilee Wood celebrations on March 23.

On land donated by the Penlyn Estate, Mr and Mrs Homfray joined Jane Hutt AM to welcome the children and take part in the tree planting.

UNISON staff had planned and prepared for this event as part of their commitment to 'greening the workplace'.

Ms Hutt commented: "The Welsh Government has supported the tree planting across Wales and I congratulate UNISON and the Woodland Trust for providing this memorable event for all of us who took part."

### Race night

CADOXTON Football Club hosts a race night at the Castle Hotel on Saturday (March 31), 7.30pm start for 8pm first race; 50 per cent of money goes to the players' fund.

## News from the Penarth and District Ramblers

### Walking in the steps of the 'Iron King'



The Ramblers take a breather to admire the view.

RECENTLY, nine walkers joined Joy on a beautiful sunny spring morning at Cyfarthfa Castle and heard a little of the history of the rich and powerful Crawshay family, who dominated this area.

Richard Crawshay, from Yorkshire originally bought the Cyfarthfa Ironworks from its founder Anthony Bacon in 1794, but it was William Crawshay II, known as 'The Iron King,' who expanded the business and built the family home Cyfarthfa Castle in 1825.

Upon his death, Cyfarthfa was left to his son from a second marriage, Robert Thompson Crawshay.

Walking up through Cefn-Coed-y-Cymmer, the group joined the Taff Trail before dropping downhill via some new steps to enter a twisting woodland path beside the Taf Fechan River, which eventually led them to the Blue Pool.

They reached the Pontsarn Viaduct – a 455-ft long and 92-ft high seven-arched viaduct which carried the first passenger train on August 8, 1868 on the Brecon and Merthyr railway line, but is now part of the Taff Trail long distance footpath.

Scrambling along the narrow footpath, they

reached Vaynor church; the original church was believed to have been burnt down in the battle of Maesfaenor in 1291 when Norman lords Gilbert de Clare and Humphrey de Bohun were arguing over the ownership of Morlais and the surrounding land.

The present church was built at the expense of Robert Thompson Crawshay, who is buried in the churchyard under a huge granite slab inscribed with the words 'God Forgive Me.'

This could relate to the way he treated his workers after refusing to embrace new technology to move from iron making to steel, or the fact that he had a bitter relationship with his own family.

Opposite is a private house, but originally in

1823 was built as the Church Tavern where during the 1700s, the local circuit court was held upstairs. The group later followed a path uphill to reach the Morlais quarries where there were clear views to the central Beacons.

A muddy track running with water led the group downhill through Welsh Black cattle before they re-joined the Taf Fechan River on its opposite bank, and made their way back to

Cyfarthfa Castle.

On March 31, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre, for an 11-mile moderate/hard walk in Blaenavon; contact Clive on 02920 654156.

On April 3, meet at 9.30am at Cogan, for an eight-mile moderate walk in Llandegfedd; contact Anne on 07773 275 077.

Membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 20 219102.

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E	G	A	F	T	E	A	D	L	H
T	S	D	S	R	T	O	M	B	K
A	W	A	R	A	Q	U	R	B	S
W	O	G	S	P	Z	Y	B	U	B
C	V	F	A	M	I	L	Y	B	C

### IN BRIEF

ON Thursday, March 29 at 10.30am, there is a Valeways walk Around Llantwit, starting at the parking area, Frampton Lane by the playing fields, Llantwit Major.

### Brunel talk

BARRY Railway Society will hold a presentation by Stephen K Jones entitled 'Brunel in south Wales' at Barry Dock Conservative Club at 7.30pm this evening (March 29).

Free admission.  
Phone 01446 774502 for further information.



The GEM is proud to be an official partner of the 2012 National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan  
Mae'r GEM yn falch o fod yn un o bartneriaid swyddogol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, 2012

# Only Men Aloud and Only Boys Aloud

**BYDD llong llwyfan o** ganfodion yn y Pafiliwn ar gyfer cyngherdd agoriadol yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, nos Wener 3 Awst eleni, wrth i Only Men Aloud groesawu sêr y gyfres boblogaidd, Britain's Got Talent, Only Boys Aloud, yn ôl i'w cartref gwreiddiol ar Faes yr Eisteddfod.

Ers eu creu ar gyfer Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Blaenau Gwent a Blaenau'r Cymoedd ddwy flynedd yn ôl, mae Only Boys Aloud wedi mynd o nerth i nerth, gan gryddeddi pinalc eu gyrfa hyd yn hyn dros y penwythnos, gyda chanmoliaeth arbennig gan bob un o'r pedwar beirniad ar raglen boblogaidd ITV Britain's Got Talent. Meddai Tim Rhys-Evans, Cyfarwyddwr Cerddorol, Only Men Aloud, sydd hefyd yn gyfrifol am Only Boys Aloud, "Mae'r deunaw mis diwethaf wedi bod yn gyfnod anhygoel i Only Boys Aloud. Ddwy flynedd yn ôl, roeddem ni'n teithio o amgylch cybiau rygbi cymoedd de Cymru'n cynnal clyweliadau er mwyn rhoi côr o fechgyn at ei gilydd ar

Only Men Aloud bob amser yn mwynhau perfformio yn yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol - mae'r gynulleidfa bob amser mor groesawgar a'r awyrgylch yn gwbl unigryw. Pleser felly, yw bod yn rhan o'r cyngherdd agoriadol unwaith eto eleni. Rydan ni i gyd yn cael gwefr o fod yn rhan o'r perfformiad cyntaf ar lwyfan y Pafiliwn, a rhoi croeso mawr i'r Eisteddfod i Fro Morgannwg ac i Fro Morgannwg i'r Eisteddfod.

Ac mae cynlluniau ar y gweill ar hyn o bryd i greu Only Vale Kids Aloud - côr newydd sbon o blant y dalgylch - i berfformio ar lwyfan yr Eisteddfod, hefyd yn y cyngherdd agoriadol eleni. Mae nifer o ysgolion y dalgylch wedi datgan diddordeb i fod yn rhan o'r cynllun, ac mae llythyrâu wedi'u hanfon at bawb sy'n awyddus i gymryd rhan yn y côr dros y dyddiau diwethaf. Bydd y plant lleol yn cael eu hyfforddi gan grŵp Only Men Aloud dros y misoedd nesaf, gan berfformio am y tro cyntaf ar lwyfan y Pafiliwn.

Dwyed Tim, "Roeddem ni'n awyddus i greu côr o blant lleol ar gyfer y cyngherdd eleni, gan roi cyfle i blant yr ardaloedd brofi'r wefr o berfformio ar lwyfan o safon byd-eang yn eu hardal leol nhw. Gobeithio y bydd hyn yn eu sbarduno ac yn eu hysbrydoli i barhau i ganu a pherfformio, a phwy â w'r, efallai bod rhai o enillwyr yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol dros y degawdau nesaf yn aelodau o Only Vale Kids Aloud. Y gobaith mwyaf yw rhoi profiad heb ei ail i blant a phobl ifanc, a'u cael nhw i fwyhau canu corawl, a thrwy hynny barhau â'r traddodiad hollbwysig hwn sydd gennym ni yma yng Nghymru."

Gwerthwyd pob tocyn ar gyfer y cyngherdd agoriadol gydag Only Men Aloud ac Only Boys Aloud yn 2010, ac mae tocynnau eleni hefyd yn gwerthu'n gyflym. Gellir archebu tocynnau naill ai drwy'r wefan - www.eisteddfod.org.uk - neu drwy ffonio'r llinell docynnau ar 0845 4090 800.

**Ar ras i godi arian!**  
DDYDD Sul, 15 Ebrill, bydd cyfle i fod yn rhan o ddiwrnod arbennig yng nghwrs rasio Ffios Las, Sir Gaerfyrddin,

wrth i'r Eisteddfod Genedlaethol nodd diwrnod o rasus ceffylau i godi arian at Brifwyl Bro Morgannwg, a gynhelir yn nes ymlaen eleni.

Ar hyn o bryd, mae'r Eisteddfod yn chwilio am unrhyw un sydd â diddordeb mewn prynu bwrdd ym Mwyty Brdles, sy'n rhan o'r cwrs, ar gyfer y dydd - y lleoliad perffaiith i fwyhau diwrnod o rasio ceffylau mewn awyrgylch arbennig a chysylltgar.

Mae bwrdd yn costio £600, ac am hyn, mae lle i ddeg o bobl ar gyfer pryd tri chwrs, coffi, mwydai i Ffios Las a rhaglen y dydd. Yn ogystal, mae sgriniau teledu yn y bwyty er mwyn i chi gael dilyn y cyffro i gyd heb orfod codi o'ch sedd! Mae adnoddau gosod betiau hefyd ar gael yn y bwyty, ac mae'r balconi mewn lleoliad perffaiith, yn edrych i lawr dros y cwrs rasio i'w hun, er mwyn sicrhau na fyddwch yn colli eiliad o unrhyw ras.

Meddai Elfed Roberts, Prif Weithredwr yr Eisteddfod, "Mae'r bartneriaeth hon gyda chwrs rasio Ffios Las yn ffordd arbennig o dda o godi arian tuag at Eisteddfod Bro Morgannwg eleni. Fe fydd yn ddiwrnod arbennig o hwylio, ac mae'n gyfle i ymlacio, naill ai gyda'r teulu neu ffrindiau neu gyda chleientiaid eich cwmni neu fusnes."

"Mae'r ymateb wedi bod yn ardderchog hyd yn hyn ac ychydig iawn o fyrdau sydd ar ôl ar gyfer y diwrnod, felly os oes gennych chi diddordeb, bydd angen cysylltu'n weddol sydyn, rhag ofn i chi gael eich siomi."

Dylai unrhyw un sydd yn awyddus i archebu bwrdd gysylltu gyda Glyn Jones, Swyddog Cyllid Lleol yr Eisteddfod ar 0845 4090 300 neu anfon ebost at glyn@eisteddfod.org.uk.

**Opening concert**  
THERE'LL be a packed stage of singers in the Pavilion for the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod's opening concert on Friday, August 3, as Only Men Aloud welcome the stars of Britain's Got Talent back to their original home on the Eisteddfod Maes.

Since their creation for the Blaenau Gwent and Heads of the Valleys National Eisteddfod two years ago, Only Boys Aloud have gone from strength to strength, reaching the pinnacle of their careers so far over the weekend with a standing ovation from all four judges on the hit ITV show; Britain's Got Talent.

Only Men Aloud Musical Director, Tim Rhys-Evans, who is also responsible for Only Boys Aloud, says: "The last 18 months have been an amazing time for Only Boys Aloud. Two years ago,

we were visiting rugby clubs across the Valleys holding auditions to put together a choir of young boys for the opening concert at the Eisteddfod, and today, we're looking forward to not only appearing in the next round of one of the UK's most popular TV series, but also to returning to the Pavilion stage at the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod.

"The aim was to inspire a new generation of young boys to discover choral singing, and the success, commitment - and talent - of these young boys is a sure sign that there's a strong future for choral singing in Wales."

With all the coverage regarding Only Boys Aloud's recent success, it would be easy to forget that over the past few years, Only Men Aloud have also gone from strength to strength. Today, the choir fills concert halls across the UK with their professional and slick shows, appealing to people of all ages.

Following their recent series on S4C, Only Men Aloud have become even more successful over the past two years, and organisers are delighted to welcome them back to the Pavilion stage at the Eisteddfod.

Tim says: "Only Men Aloud always enjoy per-

forming at the National Eisteddfod - the audience and the atmosphere at the festival are unique and very special. We are delighted to be part of the opening concert once again this year. We all enjoy the thrill of being part of the first performance on the Pavilion stage, and look forward to welcoming the Eisteddfod to the Vale of Glamorgan and the Vale of Glamorgan to the Eisteddfod."

And there's plans afoot for the creation of a brand new choir, Only Vale Kids Aloud, to perform at the opening concert.

Letters have already been sent to schools asking them to express any interest, and over the past few days the Eisteddfod has contacted all those eager to be part of the choir. The local children will be mentored by Only Men Aloud over the next few months, and will perform for the first time on the Pavilion stage.

Tim adds: "We wanted to create a choir of local schoolchildren for this year's concert, so that children in the area could experience the thrill of performing on a world-class stage in their locality. Who knows, there may be some future Eisteddfod winners in the choir at this year's opening concert!"

Tables cost £600, and can sit up to 10 people for a three-course meal, coffee, entry fee for the course and the official programme for the day. TV screens are also situated in the restaurant, so you can follow all the excitement without hav-

ing to leave your seat! Betting facilities are also available in the restaurant, and the balcony lies in a prime location, overlooking the racecourse itself, so you won't miss a single second of racing.

National Eisteddfod Chief Executive, Elfed Roberts, said: "This partnership with the Ffios Las racecourse is a great way of raising money for the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod this year. This is sure to be a fun-filled day, and a chance to relax with family and friends, or with you business clients."

"The response has been excellent so far and there's only a few tables still available. So, if you're interested in being part of the day, get in touch very soon to avoid disappointment."

Anyone interested in purchasing a table should contact Glyn Jones, the local finance officer for the Eisteddfod, on 0845 4090 300 or e m a i l glyn@eisteddfod.org.uk.

**Welsh phrase of the week**  
'Dwi'n gweddio am haf cynnes eleni' (Dween gway-the-yeo amm hav cunness len-ee).

Which means: 'I'm praying for a warm summer this year'.

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# Llantwit Major

## SPRING/EASTER

### Seasonal update...



ABOVE: Welcome to Llantwit!

# Wonderful Llantwit Major is ready for truly historic year!

**T**HE daffodils are out, the light spring evenings have arrived and as Easter 2012 approaches, Llantwit Major can hardly have looked more attractive in what is a truly momentous year.

The mayor of the town, Coun Eddie Williams, hailed a successful partnership of the town council, business and property owners, the Vale Council and Welsh Government for delivering a modern town centre that will breathe new life

into the local economy – and provide an attractive destination for thousands of people visiting the National Eisteddfod in August.

“The Boverton Road project was the dream of the late Coun John Readman, and it was wonderful that it could be opened by his son Russell. What we have now in place is fantastic, compared to what we had before.

“The way it blends with the work in the Precinct is fantastic. Llanilltud Fawr in Flower have also done great things to add that splash of colour.



LEFT: Boverton Road's regeneration is just one part of all the changes in the town in recent months.

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“This has all been achieved through ‘partnership working’.

“The front side project (Boverton Road) is scheduled to be signed off in July – great timing, just before the National Eisteddfod.

“The visitors who come this summer will discover a town with great history, wonderful local walks, the Heritage Coast and a welcoming town centre.”

Although Britain is currently in the throes of a protracted economic battle, there's a spring in the step of local business owners and

The GEM spoke to two who are about to mark significant anniversaries.

Stuart Sloane of Sloane & Co, which will celebrate its 30th birthday soon, said that recent changes have been noted by people who had visited the town for the first time in perhaps many months.

“They have remarked on the positive atmosphere and said it looks so much better.

“What has been encouraging is that they've said they will want to return.

“The way the Precinct refurbishment has integrated

with the Boverton Road scheme has been excellent.

“We are now looking at a much refreshed town!”

The National Eisteddfod is being held just a short distance up the road

from Llantwit Major, at Llandow, and Stuart said the town's traders were determined to “pull out all the stops”.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17)



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# Llantwit Major

## SPRING/EASTER

### Seasonal update...



ABOVE: Precinct businesses are gearing up for the Eisteddfod.



ABOVE: Llantwit's picturesque old town area and (below) the newly-paved Precinct.

## Plenty to look forward to in Llantwit Major

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16)

Stuart added: "We're one of the first businesses people will see when they come into Llantwit from the train station, and we're going to provide information leaflets on the town for them."

"We're also going to have signs in the shop in Welsh."

"There's a real optimism about the year ahead."

Tina Morgan of Rio Fashion and Silver Jewellery celebrates 25 years of trading in the town this June and says one of its attractions is that people enjoy the atmosphere so much.

"It is so friendly and relaxed – perhaps that's why more people are coming here to live!"

"Llantwit has a really solid future. There's been a lot of investment and people are pleased with the improvements."

"As businesses, we have tremendous support from the people of Llantwit, Wick, Ogmore Vale – and the rest of

the Vale.

"People locally are very loyal and have never let us down."

Coun Gwyn John chaired the sub-committee dealing with the regeneration of Boverton Road and insisted that the hope was that this year would provide a long-term legacy for the town.

"In 2008, I met representatives of the National Eisteddfod and the hope was that if the festival came there would be lasting benefits for the area."

"I know that local businesses are planning a real welcome. There will be bunting, flags, a warm welcome – people and businesses will be going that extra mile for visitors."

"We want to impress upon everyone that Llantwit Major is a place to come when visiting the Vale, not just this year, but in the years to come."

"The town looks a real picture now and there is a really positive atmosphere."



The latest fashions at Rio!

SEE MORE ABOUT LLANTWIT MAJOR ON PAGE 18

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**Llantwit Major**  
**SPRING/EASTER**  
**Seasonal update...**



## Timely advice for coastal walkers and beach users

**L**LLANTWIT Major Coastguard Search and Rescue was involved in a double rescue at Southerndown recently.

One man, who was out for a walk, had attempted to climb a rocky outcrop, but had fallen and fractured his

leg.

While that rescue was under way the emergency services were informed that another walker had got into difficulties near West Farm, Ogmere, and was just a metre from the cliff edge.

The RAF Sea King from Chivenor had to help parties on the ground to effect rescues of the people.

The double-incident is a timely reminder of what can go wrong if people don't follow safety rules.

At this time of year, as the milder days and lighter evenings arrive, people gravitate to nearby beaches and coastal walks.

A spokeswoman for the Coastguard told The GEM:

"Walkers, beach

users and all other coastal users should be aware that if they get into difficulty they should call 999 and ask for the coastguard.

"You can do this even if you have no credit on your phone or if the phone is locked.

"Tell the coastguard what the problem is and where you are. You may need to stay on the line to direct them to the scene."

The spokeswoman said that people going walking or to the beach should tell a family member or a friend, and give them an idea of the sort of time they were likely to return. If plans change, family or friends should be updated.

The spokeswoman added: "Cliff and coastal users should make sure that they are properly equipped for walking along coastal paths. In particular remember to wear proper footwear for the coastal walks."

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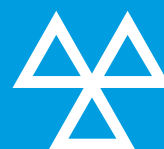
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## Daffodil open day is a success

**COED-Y-BWL Reserve's celebrated wild daffodils were in full bloom for the Bridgend group's highly successful open day when their new information board and cairn were unveiled by Murray McLaggan, of Merthyr Mawr Estate.**

Mr McLaggan recalled the early history of the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales' conservation work at the reserve, when over 30

years ago, Dutch Elm disease ravaged the wood and threatened the daffodils with the sudden exposure to invasive bramble. He also thanked the long-term group of volunteers for their maintenance work to protect the woodland and its wealth of wildlife.

Alun Cairns, Conservative MP for the Vale, along with Sir Geoffrey Inkin, of Castle-upon-Alun House, were among the guests.

Bridgend Group chairman Tony Wilson introduced the proceedings and praised volunteers for their dedication at the

reserve over four decades. Mr Cairns said he was highly impressed by the volunteers' conservation work over such a long period. The reserve and its lovely setting in the Alun Valley was a credit to the Trust and Merthyr Mawr Estate – and a wonderful local amenity for the area.

The event was preceded by a timely weather report from the crest of the reserve by ITV Wales weatherman James White, who predicted some fine days ahead for spring blossom.

Warden Richard Marks thanked Merthyr Mawr Estate and Mr. McLaggan for their continued renewal of the leasehold since 1972 and called on younger volunteers to step in and help protect the wood for future generations of country lovers.

Scores of visitors walked around the six-acre reserve to see the daffodils and listen to spring birdsong.

Group secretary Peter Hatherley said: "The event was a resounding success – blessed by fine weather, which encouraged a steady flow of visitors. Thanks are due to Trust staff for helping to organise the event and running a shuttle service for visitors from St Brides Major."

## 'LDP not a good vision for the Vale'

**THE recently released LDP for the next 15 years includes 7,721-plus additional houses in the Vale, and we should question that this is actually needed.**

It is stated that migration is a cause, but I question this if it is based on the speculative figures for the Aerospace Business Park.

St Athan village, in particular, needs to take note of the proposed 530 houses – approximately 36 per cent increase in the housing stock in the ward, over 70 per cent in the village itself, potentially more than doubling its population and creating an additional 1,000 plus vehicle movements on an already difficult junction with the B4265.

Much has been made of MoD St Athan becoming an 'enterprise zone,' but this is still a completely speculative development, and still targeting the Aerospace industry – the Welsh Assembly and WDA before it has thrown millions at its 'dream' of an Aerospace business Park for over 10 years – to no avail. The industry does not need it, indeed it does not seem to want it. In fact, the only things that the ABP and the defence college have brought to the Vale are housing developers!

What a shame the Welsh Assembly's vision could not be directed towards the more sustainable smaller indigenous business.

If these housing targets have been imposed on us by the Assembly, then where is the infrastructure investment necessary to make it sustainable?

While there is some provision in the LDP for the Five Mile Lane, we need road improvements to some of the existing arteries to the west of the Vale – not major new roads carving through our countryside, but strategic cost-effective ones that have less effect on the environment and local communities.

The ABP and Llandow as employment zones will only ever develop and grow if someone's 'vision' extends to the much-awaited Llyswoerby bypass. Giving up more green field to build more industrial units does not encourage business. Road improvements, communication links, and competitive business rates would bring them to our already empty units on the existing under-used sites.

Where is the logic of promoting Hensol to the north as an employment zone, while adding all the houses to the south served by only rural lanes?

I am not against 'sustainable' development, but doubling the size of a village is not sustainable, and it is not just St Athan – all communities need to check their area in this LDP.

What happens when the houses are built, but there are still no jobs?

Without substantial road improvements, how will the existing and new population be able to access work?

The Vale wishes to promote tourism, I do not think being stuck in a traffic jam comes top of a visitor's list of things to do!

Perhaps we could charge a £10,000 levy on each house the property developers build, which would equate to around a £77m pot for the road and other infrastructure

improvements!

Although this is not yet a planning application, be aware that lack of concern from the public now will make it much harder to successfully oppose when the planning applications come flooding in.

So please take the time to check out the LDP and make any comments you wish to make by April 2.

**Ann Barnaby, St Athan**

## Tory AM hits at airport criticism

**REGIONAL Tory AM, Andrew RT Davies, has criticised what he called "anti-Cardiff Airport rhetoric" by senior Welsh Government Ministers, including the First Minister.**

He said: "We all want to see a thriving airport in Cardiff, and the recent decline in passenger numbers and withdrawal of bmi baby have led to natural concerns over its future as a vibrant transport hub."

He had been "stunned" by the language employed by Welsh Government Ministers in recent days, with the First Minister having launched two separate public attacks on it in the space of a week.

"Cardiff Airport should be Wales' gateway to the business world. I want to see the Welsh Government working in collaboration with the airport where appropriate; not launching public attacks that do nothing but gain newspaper headlines," said Mr Davies, a south Wales Central AM and leader of the Tory group in the Assembly.

## Police have 'dry run' for Olympic torch relay route

**SOUTH Wales Police have geared up to welcome the Olympic torch on May 25, by carrying out a test exercise on Monday (March 26).**

The Olympic torch is due to travel the length and breadth of Wales, passing through the four Welsh police forces.

The exercise began with practice 'dry-runs' at RAF St Athan and involved a convoy of vehicles travelling on public roads to Nantymoel and Bridgend, ending in Laleston.



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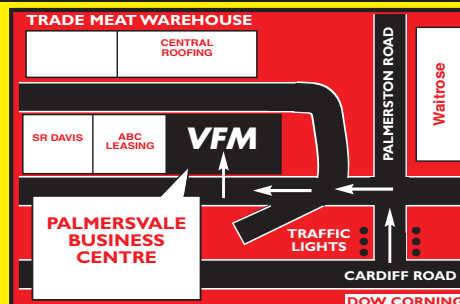
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# An Easter Shopping Experience

at High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street

## FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT IN HIGH STREET AT A SPECIAL TIME OF YEAR



Jodie and Ian Weavers of Butterflies – along with mascot Sky – in High Street, are maintaining the local traders' tradition of putting on a community event at Easter.

**B**USINESSES on High Street, Barry, are preparing for a busy Easter – and one shop is even providing a family entertainment day on Saturday, April 7.

Jodie and Ian Weavers, of Butterflies, are busy making final preparations for what should be a busy event.

Ian explained: "We were keen to continue High Street's tradition of putting on something special for the community at Easter."

Jodie said: "Our 'Easter for Kids' event includes a bonnet competition, a drawing

competition, and an Easter egg letter hunt. "Anybody from the age of two to adults is welcome.

"We are putting on refreshments, including cakes and drinks, and there will be a lot of special promotions.

"It gives us an opportunity to celebrate our third anniversary as a business."

Jodie and Ian said there will be prizes for the winners of competitions, and the day's activities will run from 11am to 5pm.

The enduring popularity of Barry's West End as a location for a wide variety of businesses has been demonstrated recently by

Mark Osman, of Still Images, who relocated to High Street just weeks ago.

Mark, who is originally from Cardiff but now lives on the Island, explained: "When I started as a photographer, it was a dream to have my own studio in High Street – the business fits in with the boutiques and specialist shops locally.

"The community atmosphere is very strong and appeals to customers.

"I took up photography more than four years ago, after being made redundant

"Photographer, Mark Cleghorn, took me under his wing. I'm now officially qualified as a wedding and portrait photographer.

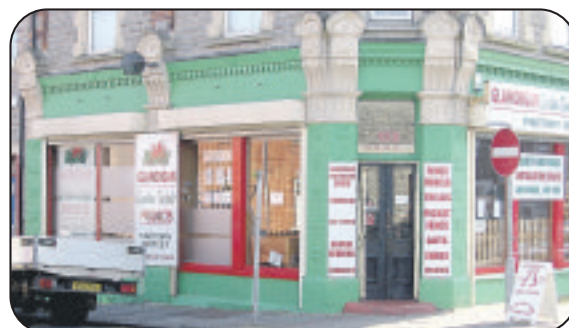
"I do family and wedding shoots. I also do 'boudoir' photos, which are shoots for women who want a series of glamour shots, possibly for their husband or boyfriend. A woman chaperone is always present at those photography sessions. "I think Still Images complements the stylish shops in High Street."

With Easter just days away, local traders are anxious that shoppers think ahead a little.

Richard Patterson of High Street's trendy Chaplin's Restaurant, promises a roast turkey dish to remember for diners this Easter.



This stylish photographic studio at Still Images.



ABOVE: Glamorgan Garden Timber Products – a must for your garden this spring and summer.

He warned: "We're open every day, but to be guaranteed a table, people should book in advance."

Chaplin's is the ideal eatery for a relaxing snack or meal on High Street. Dishes are available at all times of the day – breakfasts until noon, lunches until 6pm and dinners are served until 10pm.

Richard, who has been the manager for three and half years, added: "We're continuing to do a three-course £18 offer from Monday to Thursday."

Tony Hopkins of Vic Hopkins & Son appealed to people to put in their orders for Easter as soon as possible.

He explained: "We started taking orders last week for turkeys and spring Welsh lamb from west Wales.

"To make life easier for people, in such hectic times, we've introduced a few new lines.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 23)



ABOVE: A tasty treat this Easter from The Lush Cake Company.

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# An Easter Shopping Experience

at High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street

## The Lush Cake Company has all those tasty treats!

**T**HE Lush Cake Company is well worth a trip for those tasty treats – particularly at family times like Easter and Christmas.

If you want to spoil your family with some stupendous home made food, then this is the place for you.

Mel Curran, a fifth generation baker, is not only preparing lots of foodie delights for Easter, she's holding a special children's event, too.

Mel said: "The Easter competition is encourag-

ing local children to make a biscuit, a cup cake or cake this Easter. They must be brought to the shop by 2pm on Easter Saturday.

"There will be prizes for the best three entries."

The Lush Cake Shop makes all its own artisan breads, cakes, hand raised pies (with mouth-watering fillings) and even runs popular bread making classes for the enthusiastic amateur.

So if you want to sample some quality home made food, make a resolution to pop into The Lush Cake Company.



ABOVE: Mel Curran making hand raised pies.



ABOVE: The Lush Cake Company – for lush bread, too!

## Be prepared for Easter!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22)

Tony added: "Our home made, traditional cottage pies, and chicken, bacon and mushroom cottage pies are very popular at £2.99. We're also doing homemade faggots, peas and gravy for just £1.89. We're even doing our own fresh garlic mushrooms!"

So as the warm weather arrives, get down to High Street and make the most of the West End's fantastic array of shops and restaurants.

● The Market Street Club is preparing to run a special charity night to support the Forces' charity Help for Heroes.

It will be held on June 23 and the club is planning to have a singer, comedian and a raffle. More details nearer the time.



ABOVE: Becky is having a jewellery-making lesson at Anastasia Beads on High Street.

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## Funding confirmed for Docks Link Road lights

THE transportation team at the Vale Council has been praised for its work, following confirmation that the Welsh Government will support funding for traffic lights on the Docks Link Road.

The scheme was also supported by the South-East Wales Transport Alliance (SEWTA).

Coun Jeffrey James, the cabinet member for planning and transportation, told THE GEM: "The Sewta programme for 2012/13 was submitted to the Minister for final approval and we have had confirmation that

the scheme – £600,000, plus revenue costs – can go ahead. "This is fantastic news for Barry, as the traffic light scheme will resolve, once and for all, this terrible highway black spot for accidents."

The Barry Docks Link Road has been a source of controversy for a number of years, although investigations have indicated that accidents have often been caused by driver error rather than the configuration of the road.

One Vale Council committee viewed film of the Coldbrook Road entry onto the Docks Link Road, and it showed numerous acts of illegal driving, including

dangerous u-turns.

Coun James said: "The scheme will make this busy road safer and it will improve the road junction serving St Richard Gwyn Comprehensive and, importantly, Coldbrook Road East.

"My thanks go to the Minister for showing faith in our scheme, and to my colleagues at SEWTA for their support."

Coun James added: "However, this would not have happened without the support and commitment of the transportation team in the Vale Council."

## Council and union argue about job cuts

THE Vale Council and the GMB union are currently locked in disagreement over figures published by the union which have branded the Vale as making the heaviest job cuts in Wales.

The union's headline claim was that almost 5,000 council jobs had been lost in Wales since the coalition government took office.

The period the GMB used was from the first quarter of 2010 to the third quarter of 2011.

Jobs were lost at 19 of the 22 councils, with an average cut of around six per cent.

Neath Port Talbot, for instance, shed 9.8 per cent of staff, dropping from 6,356 to 5,733. Cardiff saw six per cent go, with staff numbers dropping from 12,444 to 11,702.

However, according to the GMB, the Vale Council was far and away the biggest slasher of jobs, with the union claiming that 30.8 per cent of jobs had gone.

It said that staff levels in 2010 of 5,204 had been slashed to 3,599 – a loss of 1,605 full time equivalent jobs!

However, the Vale Council immediately disputed the figures.

The council's head of human resources Reuben Bergman said: "For the period set out in the table the reduction in the staffing level for the council was approximately three per cent – and not 30 per cent as quoted.

"During the period, the loss in full time equivalent staffing levels was just over 150 employees across the council and in schools.

"The staffing figure quoted for Quarter 1 in 2010 was inaccurate and has therefore made inaccurate the percentage change figures.

"The revised figures mean that the percentage of jobs cut in the Vale is one of the lowest across the 22 Welsh authorities and reflects the prudent financial and resource planning within the council.

"The council has always worked effectively with our trade unions and staff to manage change appropriately and to pursue all avenues to reduce the impact on staff."

A spokesman for the GMB said that the figures came from the Office of National Statistics, and added that the union had used them before without the Vale Council raising any question.

## 'Please recycle Easter foil' – is the message



Eco Easter bunnies Luke Pearce, aged 6, and Beulah Christopher, aged 7, from Dinas Powys Infants School's eco committee.

With Easter on its way, the shops are full of tasty treats, but the celebrations can also lead to a large amount of waste foil.

So this year, Dinas Powys Infants School's eco committee is spreading the Vale Council's Easter message by asking residents to make sure they recycle all their Easter egg foil.

The clean foil can now be added to residents' co-mingled kerbside recycling.

Head teacher of Dinas Powys Infants School

Mrs Julie Thompson said: "I asked Sam Harrison, the waste awareness officer, to come into our school to speak to the children during assembly. B "By looking at Easter, we saw practical and easy ways that young children can keep reducing, reusing and recycling, something we are very keen on in our school.

"I'm happy that two of our eco-committee, Beulah Christopher and Luke Pearce, make such lovely mascots for this great message."

To find out more about the Vale's recycling services either visit our recycling pages, email visible@vale-of-glamorgan.gov.uk or phone 01446 700 111.

## Call for rights of way ideas

BRIDGEND county borough residents are being asked to suggest projects that could be included in the rights of way improvement plan for 2012-13.

Working with the public, local groups, landowners and town and community councils, the rights of way team have been able to make improvements worth more than £265,000 to paths, routes and bridleways over the last four years, a BCBC spokesman said.

Using funding from the Welsh Government and the Countryside Council for Wales, an additional 12km of routes had been created and access improved to more than 115km of paths within the local rights of way network.

## LOCAL PUPILS ARE KNIGHTS FOR A DAY!

YEAR-2 pupils at All Saints Primary School in Barry recently took part in a history trip to be remembered at Castell Coch, near Cardiff, as they learnt about knights and castles.

Sir Andrew the knight taught them about how boys were trained to become knights and he gave the children a lesson in swordsmanship and a chance to try on some armour.

In the drawing room, the children studied the wonderful illustrations from Aesop's Fables and they enjoyed a story session as the spellbinder retold some of the tales.

After a picnic lunch in the courtyard, the children explored the castle and learned about its history, while enjoying the amazing architecture and artwork designed by William Burges.

Their teacher, Mrs Koursaros, thanked Sir Andrew and the spellbinder for helping to bring history to life in such an exciting way.



## Barrivale bridge results

LATEST results from Barrivale bridge club are as follows: March 20: First – Irene Thomas and Graham Jones, 58.75 per cent; Second – Mike Close and Mick Green, 57.5 per cent; Third – Tom Kendrick and Ann Macdougall, 54.17 per cent. Tom and Ann won on handicap. New members always welcome at Barrivale, call 01446 733425 or at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

## Huskies stand out for Wales

The development of Barry Huskies caught the eye of the Welsh development squad in November 2011, when they stood out in open trials, and earned their call ups.

Since then, they have continued to improve under the guidance of the Huskies' coaches and have become important members of the club's junior mixed team.

The club's future is

ET

## Speak up now on LDP!

THE Conservative-controlled Vale Council has approved for consultation the deposit LDP, in which it is proposed to build 9,950 new dwellings during the plan period following a transport route from Penarth to Llantwit Major.

It is proposed that 500 dwellings will be on green field land to the north of Waycock Cross (MG2(4)) and 210 dwellings on green field land south west of Waycock Cross (MG2(7)). It is also proposed to use 10 hectares of green field land north of Waycock Cross for employment use (MG12).

Many residents are not aware of this plan and there is limited time in which to respond.

It is extremely important that you make your voice heard by April 2.

Ultimately, the deciding body – the

Welsh Government – will be taking into account the views discussed and raised.

These plans may impact on the value of existing properties, wildlife, local schools, local services – doctors, dentists, hospitals, police and fire service – road traffic, particularly Port Road and Pontypridd Road, Barry; and the Green Wedge. This was put in place to prevent the coalescence of settlements and to retain the openness of land.

Email your views ASAP to LDP@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

A representation form is also available at council offices or online at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk, but these are not designed to be user friendly and a letter stating your concerns should be accepted.

Frank Cleland  
Barry



## Bryn Hafren's Youth Speaks team in UK final



Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School's winning senior team: LEFT TO RIGHT: Lissie Wallington, teacher Angela Burd, Dominic List, Sarah Jane Griffiths, Barry Rotary president Dave Ball and Aimee Delaney.

**BARRY Rotary Club** was proud of the outstanding success of the **Senior Youth Speaks debating team** in the regional final of the Rotary Youth Speaks competition, hosted by Rotary District 1210 on March 24 at Stafford University.

In the senior section (14-17-year-olds), the

team from Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School, entering for their first year in the section, were chosen by the judges as winners of the regional final.

They will now take their place in the UK final at Wrexham on April 28.

Representing south Wales, the Bryn Hafren senior team of chair Aimee Delaney; speaker

Lissie Wallington and their vote of thanks given by Sarah Jayne Griffiths, gained praise from all the judges – not only for their outstanding debating skills, but also for their preparation, attitude, commitment and their smart appearance.

Taking an adaptation of the forthcoming 2012 Olympics as their chosen presentation topic, "Play up, play away and play the fool: sports people are not positive role models for the young, and the Olympics not the epitome of sporting prowess and morality," the Bryn Hafren senior team gave a most polished, professional performance.

Speaker Lissie Wallington had to answer a question from the audience to show that the team had a clear understanding of their chosen presentation topic. Presenting the prizes, Dominic List

[featured on Channel 4's Secret Millionaire] and sponsor of the regional final congratulated the Bryn Hafren team on their outstanding presentation.

President of Barry Rotary Club, Dave Ball, also offered congratulations and paid tribute to the Bryn Hafren senior team and their teacher Angela Burd.

He wished them every success in the national final. **J.O.**

## Graham and Barbara's silver celebration

Local couple **Graham and Barbara Davies** recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary at the Tynewydd Inn in Barry with family and friends. The couple, are well known to GEM readers because of the Poppy Appeals they ran for many years at Waitrose store, raising more than £45,000 for servicemen and their families.

## MUSIC TRIO ENTERTAIN

Cottrell Park Golf Club was recently the venue for a musical evening with Bonvilton baritone Wyn Pencarreg, who was joined by soprano Jeni Bern and Louise Armit, mezzo soprano, accompanied by Steven Maughan on the piano.

More than 100 members and friends attended the event and enjoyed a selection of operatic arias and popular songs from musicals and films, including a duet from The Phantom of the Opera.

There will be another opportunity to hear them with a different repertoire, at St Donats on Sunday, April 22 at 4pm.

Tickets are available on 01446 799100. **SW**

**REMEMBER...**  
you can now follow The GEM on Twitter and Facebook.  
Find us @gem\_news or at  
[www.facebook.com/gemnews](http://www.facebook.com/gemnews)

## BIRCH ADDS NEW DIMENSION TO COLLEGE



Valle MP Alun Cairns with college principal Darren Jackson.

**BEECHWOOD College, Sully, has held an official ceremony to mark the opening of its latest phase; Birch.**

Wales' first and only specialist residential college provides further education for students over the age of 16 with Autistic Spectrum Condition or Asperger's Syndrome.

Birch will add a new dimension to the college – with 18 additional bedrooms taking the number of students – both residential and day students – that can be catered for to a

total of 66. It was officially opened by Alun Cairns MP for the Vale, who said:

"I first visited Beechwood College six months ago and was truly inspired by what I saw.

"The quality of education and life skills that young people acquire here is truly exceptional and makes a huge difference to the lives of both the individuals concerned and also their families," the MP added.

## Residents hold litter-pick at Rhoose Point

**RESPECT Rhoose Point Residents Association** carried out a group litter pick around the estate, lagoons and the beach last week.

Spokesman Paul Humphry reported: "By the end of the litter picking, there were around 50 residents taking part and some 30 bags of rubbish were collected in total, including a car exhaust, car battery, a bed, two tents and a deckchair.

"The residents associ-

ation want to show that Rhoose Point has a strong community spirit, live and kicking after some years of negative stories regarding land adoption and drainage issues on the estate.

"At last, the highways and land adoption process is moving forward with the council and residents are keen to keep the estate special.

"The litter pick event is the first of many community-based initiatives that will be held in the forthcoming months," he added.

## CCTV arrests

**SEVEN people were arrested in the Vale, after CCTV operators contacted police on 60 occasions during the week ending March 25.**

Two people were arrested on warrant in Holton Road and Main Street in Barry on March 19, and one person was arrested for alleged possession of drugs and breaching curfew and bail conditions at Holton Road, Barry, on March 21.

On March 22, one person was arrested for alleged theft on Holton Road, Barry, and another concerning being drunk in charge of a vehicle on Windsor Terrace, Penarth.

One arrest involved possession of drugs at Holton Road, Barry, on March 24, and another person was arrested for alleged theft at Thompson Street, Barry, on March 25.

## Bethan in line for Amnesty reporter award

**BETHAN McKERNAN (22), a third-year English language and literature student at Oxford University from Barry, has been longlisted for a prestigious Student Human Rights Reporter Award.**

Her highly-commended article was one of 10 entries selected from student entries across the UK. Bethan, will now have her entry put forward for final judging in the competition, which is part of the Amnesty International Media Awards, run in conjunction with NUS.

If she reaches the top three, Bethan will be invited to attend the

Media Awards ceremony, alongside 500 of the nation's top media names, and the winner will be announced in London on May 29.

Bethan, who wrote about children in UK Border Agency Detention Centres, said: "I'm honoured to be longlisted for the Human Rights Reporter Award. I've been a part of Amnesty youth groups and the experience made me realise how difficult it can be to investigate human rights abuses; to know that I've written something worthwhile feels great.

"Amnesty works to protect some of the most vulnerable people in the world and thinking my work could help with that is incredibly inspiring."

## THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL THOMPSON STREET (PART) AND BROAD STREET (PART) BARRY (PARKING CONTROL) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2012

On the 23rd March 2012 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the Schedule below.

The Order will come into operation on the 2nd April 2012 and a copy of the Order may be seen at the address shown below during normal office hours.

If you wish to question the validity of the Order or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of the same or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 2nd April 2012 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

### SCHEDULE

The following Traffic Regulation Orders to be amended as follows:

**The Vale of Glamorgan Council (Barry Central Area) (Parking Control) (Consolidation and Amendment) Order 2009.**

In schedule 4B, delete the text;

Limitation on waiting to 2 hours no return within 2 hours 8.00am to 6.30pm Monday to Saturday.

**And insert;**

Limitation on waiting to 2 hours no return within 2 hours 8am to 6pm Monday to Saturday.

**The County Council of South Glamorgan (Broad Street/Holton Road, Barry) (Prohibition of Waiting/Limited Waiting) Order 1992.**

In paragraph 1(ii), delete and replace with;

Between the hours of 8am and 6pm on any other day than a Sunday for more than 2 hours in the lengths of road referred to in Schedule 2 to this Order if in respect of the length of road concerned a period of less than 2 hours has elapsed since the termination of the last period of waiting (if any) of the vehicle in that road.

In schedule 2 item (i), paragraphs (a) and (b) delete and replace with;

On its north side from a point 15 metres west of its junction with Buttrills Road for a distance of 12 metres west and from a point 74 metres west of its junction with Buttrills Road for a distance of 24 metres west.

On its south side from a point 50 metres west of its junction with Buttrills Road for a distance of 12 metres west.

**The County Council of South Glamorgan (Broad Street/Gladstone Road, Barry) (Prohibition of Waiting) Order 1977.**

Delete paragraph 1(b) in its entirety.

Dated this 29th day of March 2012.

Mr. M. Punter  
Head of Visible Services,  
Vale of Glamorgan Council,  
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA



## CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG GORCHYMYN RHEOLI PARCIO (DIWYGIEDIG) CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG 2012 (RHANNAU O THOMPSON STREET A BROAD STREET Y BARRI)

Ar 23 Mawrth 2012, gwnaeth Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adranau 81, 82, 83 ac 84 o Ddeddf Rheoli Traffig 1984 (ddwygiedig), a phob pŵer galluog arall, Orchymyn i'r diben cyfyddolol a ddisgrifir yn yr Atodlen isod.

Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 2 Ebrill 2012, a bydd copi o'r Gorchymyn i'w weld yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol.

Os hoffech ddadlau'n erbyn dilyswydd y Gorchymyn, neu'i ddarpariaethau am na chredwch fod gan y ddeddf uchod bŵer i'w gweithredu, neu am y tybiwch eu bod yn methu â chydymffurfio â gofynion y ddeddf uchod, neu un o'i hofferiynau, bydd gennych chwe wythnos o 2 Ebrill 2012 i wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r diben hwnnw.

### ATODLEN

Diwygier y Gorchymynion Rheoli Traffig canlynol:

**Cyngor Bro Morgannwg (Atgyfnerthu a Diwygio Rheolaol Parcio) (Ardal Ganol y Barri) 2009.**

Yn atodlen 4B, dilee'r y testun canlynol;

Hawl i aros am 2 awr yn unig 8.00am - 6.30pm (dydd Llun - dydd Sadwrn) ac ni chaniateir dychwelyd a pharcio o'r newydd o fewn y ddwy awr honno.

**a dodi'r testun hwn yn ei le;**

Hawl i aros am 2 awr yn unig 8.00am - 6.00pm (dydd Llun - dydd Sadwrn) ac ni chaniateir dychwelyd a pharcio o'r newydd o fewn y ddwy awr honno.

**Gorchymyn Cyngor Sir De Morgannwg (Gwahardd Aros/Cyfyngu ar Aros) (Broad Street/Holton Road, Y Barri) 1992.**

**Ym mharagraff 1(ii), dilee'r y gwreiddiol a dodi'r testun canlynol yn ei le;**

Rhwng 8am a 6pm ar bob diwrnod ac eithrio dydd Sul, am fwy na 2 awr ar y darnau o heol a nodwyd yn Atodlen 2 y Gorchymyn hwn, os yw'n llai na 2 awr ers diwedd cynnod parcio diwethaf y cerbyd yn yr heol dan sylw.

**Yn atodlen 2 item (i), dilee'r paragraffau (a) a (b) a dodi'r testun canlynol yn ei le;**

Ar ei hochr ogleddol o fan sy'n 15 milltir i'r gorllewin o'r gyffordd â Buttrills Road am 12 medr i'r gorllewin, ac o fan sy'n 74 medr i'r gorllewin o'r gyffordd â Buttrills Road am 24 medr i'r gorllewin.

Ar ei hochr dde o fan sy'n 50 medr i'r gorllewin â'r gyffordd â Buttrills Road am 12 medr i'r gorllewin.

**Gorchymyn Cyngor Sir De Morgannwg (Gwahardd Aros) (Broad Street/Gladstone Road, Y Barri) 1977.**

Dilee'r paragraff 1(b) yn llwyr.

Dyddiedig 29 Mawrth 2012

M. Punter,  
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Gweladwy  
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,  
Canolfan yr Alpau, Gwentŷ. CF5 6AA.





# EURYN OGWEN WILLIAMS YN LYWYDD EISTEDDFOD 2012

**EURYN OGWEN WILLIAMS o'r Barri yw Llywydd yr Wyl Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg eleni.**

Yn adnabyddus yn y byd darlledu ers blynyddoedd, ganwyd Eurn yn Mhenmachno yng Ngwynedd, ac ar ôl i'r teulu symud i Goedllai ger Yr Wyddgrug, fe'i addysgwyd yn Ysgol Alun yn y dref honno, cyn graddio mewn Athroniaeth a Seicoleg ym Mhrifysgol Bangor.

Aeth yn syth i'r sector ddarlledu, gan weithio'n gynatfel Cyfarwyddwr Rhaglenni gyda chwmmi TWW yng Nghaerdydd, cyn symud i Deledu Harlech, pan gipiodd y cwmmi y fasnachfaint ar gyfer Cymru a'r Gorllewin.

Bu'n gynhyrchydd a phennaeth adran gyda'r cwmmi cyn penderfynu mynd yn gyfarwyddwr a chynhyrchydd llawrydd, ac yn ystod y cyfnod hwn, bu'n gweithio i'r BBC a HTV.

Fe'i penodwyd yn bennaeth rhaglenni S4C pan ddechreuodd y sianel yn 1982, a bu yno am ddeng mlynedd, gan weithredu fel Dirprwy Brif Weithredwr yn ogystal o 1988-1991.

Ar ôl gadael S4C, bu'n ymgynghorydd yn yr Alban i'r gwasanaeth teledu Gaelig, yn Iwerddon i'r gwasanaeth Gwyddeleg, a bu hefyd yn gweithio

fel ymgynghorydd i S4C yn ystod y cyfnod ar gyhwyl teledu digidol.

Roedd yn un o aelodau cynnar Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg, ac yn gweithredu fel ymgynghorydd i Bwyllgor Diwylliant Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn ystod ei arolwg gyntaf o'r iaith Gymraeg. Bu hefyd yn un o Ymddiriedolwyr Cwmni Acen o'r cychwyn.

Mae'n enillydd ac yn feirniad yn Adran Lenyddol yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol ac yn awdur cyfrol o farddoniaeth. Ef yw Cadeirydd Pwyllgor Llenyddiaeth Eisteddfod Bro Morgannwg eleni.

Yn briod â Jenny Ogwen ac yn dad i Sara a Rhodri, mae Eurn hefyd yn daid i Soffia, Gabriel Jac a Jodie Rhiannon. Mae wedi ymgartrefu yn y Barri ers 1971 ac mae'n Ysgrifennydd Eglwys Annibynnol y Tabernacl yn y dref. Bu'n olygydd Y Ddolen, papur misol yr eglwys, yn ddi-dor ers 15 mlynedd.

Mae'n dilyn ôl troed rhai o fawron Cymru yn ei rôl fel Llywydd yr Wyl, gyda'r cyn Brif Weinidog, Rhodri Morgan, yr Arglwydd Gwilym Prys Davies, yr Athro Prys Morgan, Guto Harri, Daniel Evans a Mair Carrington Roberts, i gyd wedi bod yn Lywyddion dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf.

## Eurn Ogwen Williams of Barry named as 2012 Eisteddfod president

**EURYN OGWEN WILLIAMS, from Barry, has been named as president of the National Eisteddfod taking place at Llandow this year.**

Well known in the broadcasting world for many years, Eurn was born in Penmachno, Gwynedd, and after the family moved to Leeswood, near Mold, he was educated in Ysgol Alun, before graduating in philosophy and psychology at Bangor University.

He was appointed as TWW's director of programmes in Cardiff, before moving to Harlech TV when the company secured the franchise for Wales and the west. He worked as a producer and head of department for the company, before deciding to become a freelance producer and director, working for both the BBC and HTV, during this time.

He was appointed head of programmes at S4C when the channel began in 1982, and remained there for ten years, serving as Deputy Chief Executive as well from 1988-1991.

After leaving S4C, he worked as a consultant for the Gaelic television service in Scotland, and in Ireland for the Irish language service, and also worked as a consultant for S4C at the start of the development of digital television, advising the channel.

He was a member of the Welsh Language Board in its early days, and worked as an advisor to the National Assembly's Culture Committee during its first review of the Welsh language. He was also one of Cwmni Acen's Trustees from the beginning.

He is a former winner and adjudicator in the National Eisteddfod's Literature Section, and has written a volume of poetry. He is also chair of the Vale of Glamorgan Literature Committee this year.

Married to Jenny Ogwen, and father of Sara and Rhodri, Eurn is the grandfather of Soffia, Gabriel Jac and Jodie Rhiannon. He has lived in Barry since 1971, and is secretary at the town's Tabernacl Congregational Church. He has also edited the church's monthly paper, Y Ddolen, for the past 15 years.

He follows in the footsteps of some of Wales' greatest names as president. Recent presidents have included former First Minister, Rhodri Morgan, Lord Gwilym Prys-Davies, Professor Prys Morgan, Guto Harri, Daniel Evans and Mair Carrington Roberts.

## Trapped horse in dramatic mud rescue



The horse is hauled out of the mud.

**THE RSPCA and local firefighters went to the aid of a horse trapped up to its neck in a muddy reën near a farm in Peterston Wentlooge.**

"The young bay horse had been spotted by the keeper who was caring for the horses while the owners were away, and he had alerted the fire service who had then called the RSPCA," a spokeswoman reported.

"The mud-caked horse was safely dragged out of the reën using harnesses

and ropes and was then vet checked and found to be mobile and alert, before being taken to the stables for a good wash and dry," she added.

The RSPCA requested that the owners repair fencing near the reën before letting the horses back into the field:

"The message here really is for horse owners to ensure that they have good strong and safe fencing in fields that will keep animals away from potentially dangerous situations like this one."

## Tasters brought history to life

**ON March 22, the Friends of Barry History met in the Philip John Room at the library, when four 20-minute talks were given by members.**

Aldon Grisedale gave the first talk on 'Barry Before the Docks' with a virtual walk from the Bulwarks Hill Fort by Porthkerry caravan site, across Pebble Beach, up the Golden Stairs visiting the Roman villa at Cold Knap, before going on to Barry Island.

It threw up a lot of questions, such as was there ever a castle on Castle Rock, where did the Marquess of Bute get the stone to build his castle and who was St Baruc?

Alun Robertson spoke on 'World War I and Barry', telling us about Kitchener's Army and Barry men in the British Expeditionary Force who died in battles.

He read out poignant snatches of letters written by Barry men to their relatives telling of aspects of life in France.

John Chucas, who talked about 'Bells and Smells' of Barry, remembered the various church bells of Barry, now most defunct.

Some of the schools had bells to summon tardy schoolchildren, but none of the bells was allowed to be rung in wartime.

He also told us about the Merkur Bell on a buoy off Nell's Point, which rings to warn ships of the wreck of the Merkur, which

sank in 1922.

The smells of Barry were summed up as ozone, chimney smoke, distillers, brewery smell, (from the brewery at the bottom of Buttrills Hill), horse manure, pipe and cigarette smoke, and delicious smells in grocers' shops which sold home made pies, cheese, home cured hams.

The last talk by Glenn Booker was on 'The Americans in Barry in the Second World War.'

They came about 1942 and were housed in various sites around Barry including Port Road and Crow Hill.

They took over the SRD (Supply Reserve Depot) and also repaired vehicles needed for the invasion of France.

**JULIE BINDING**

## NEW DEVELOPMENT AT GOLWG Y COED, PENCOEDTRE LANE, BARRY



**homes4u**  
**HOTLINE**  
**01446 709840**

**Wales & West**  
HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Wales & West Housing Association, in partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Taylor Wimpey, are proud to announce our exciting new development of 20 homes which will be available for affordable rent from August 2012.

These high quality, energy efficient new homes at Golwg y Coed, Pencoedtre Lane, will be ideally located for local schools and convenient transport links.

Golgwg y Coed will comprise 20 houses: 10 x two bedroom, 8 x three bedroom and 2 x four bedroom, with affordable rents starting from approximately £97.00 per week.

In letting these new properties, priority will be given to HOMES4U members, who have a local connection with Barry.

Expressions of interest are now invited from HOMES4U members with the deadline for receipt being Friday 20th April 2012.

No expressions of interest will be accepted after the closing date of the advert.





## NEW SERVICE FOR ADULTS WITH AUTISM LAUNCHED



Pupils from Ashgrove School choir performed for the audience at the launch of the new service.

ADULT Autism Advice, launched at the Memorial Hall, Barry, on March 15, is being piloted by the Vale Council in partnership with Cardiff, Rhondda Cynon Taff and Merthyr Tydfil.

It is part of a regional initiative, funded by the Welsh Government, to improve services

for individuals with high functioning autism and Asperger's syndrome across Wales.

The information and advice service will provide a single point of contact to direct clients to services located in their community and adults do not need a diagnosis to access it.

## Ramblers take a little walk on the wild side...

IT was a walk on the wild side of Carreg yr Ogof, in the western Beacons for the Vale Ramblers.

It's the westernmost area of ground over

20,00ft in south Wales and the route direction was chosen based on the weather forecast for the day. Six members started the walk in temperatures near freezing and went through Herberts Quarry, an

abandoned limestone quarry, and on to Cefn y Cylchau 556m where they enjoyed a light shower. Then it was onwards to a high viewpoint looking at the lovely mountain valley of Cwm Sawdde Fechan in its winter glory.

The party ascended the slopes of Carreg Las in very sunny conditions to reach the trig point of Carreg yr Ogof 585m, with wide ranging views of mid Wales towards Llandovery, Lampeter and the Senni ranges to the east.

By lunchtime, the weather had changed and the group had lunch beside the trig point, where they were able to sun-bathe for a time. This area is predominantly limestone rock country with numerous shake holes.

The next leg was still uphill through stone fields to the crown of Carreg Las 635m (blue rock) and the 'Carnau'r Garreg Las', which were two large hollowed out prehistoric

cairns. By now, the party had joined the Cambrian Way, a new national trail across the Brecon Beacons, but the route is not easily followed in the stone fields.

Onwards for several kilometers in very bright sunshine with dramatic views all around. Eventually the party reached a col between the mountains and followed the Beacons Wayover Foel Fraith 602m and after another col the final ascent of the day to the trig station on Garreg Lwyd 616m (grey rock) in a heavy shower with hailstones.

The descent to the car park was a relaxation after a wonderful challenging day.

Gwenda Fitzpatrick

## Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D715.

● £2,000: 288099.  
● The rollover, which now stands at £7,000, was not won this week.

● £10: 298244, 791726, 513352, 254952, 187933, 270969, 200771, 630822, 314153, 746247, 457835, 609843, 796233, 721226, 790587, 614274, 522181, 148669, 549974, 236378.

● £5: 432105, 783749, 487070, 417915, 342876, 430683, 438873, 719806, 478025, 443945.

626097, 263190, 510676, 945335, 760516, 316413, 111467, 845426, 608301, 829240, 128181, 702196, 871984, 128235, 462175, 856413, 888998, 571708, 834029, 387734, 811685, 512887, 917728, 198027, 153380, 851897, 612587, 310397, 794664, 281897, 816589, 723597, 896443, 417838, 597796, 281993, 770181, 299672, 115583, 857665, 869551, 226037, 635804, 848318, 864545, 702609, 321817, 747810, 425253, 127542.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

## BRONZE AWARD FOR SITE CONTRACTORS



LEFT TO RIGHT: Julian and Alex Weston, Directors of Weston Contractors, Neil Morgan, Site Manager for Weston Contractors, Victoria Bolton, Development Manager and Gari Rowlands, Development Surveyor from Newydd Housing Association, with their bronze award.

Considerate Constructors scheme has awarded Weston Contractors a bronze award for the construction of a Newydd Housing Association development in Ffordd Elin, Barry.

The award recognised their consideration towards neighbours,

their workforce and the environment, whilst constructing the development last year.

They encouraged young people at Palmerton Primary School in Barry to stay safe in and around the Ffordd Elin construction site, talking about potential hazards they may find and what to do in different situations.

## Penarth Computer Club Windows 8 – first looks

THE press has been talking for some time about the advent of Windows 8, Microsoft's new operating system: It isn't available yet, (guesses tend towards October 2012 for its release), but a Consumer Preview Version was made available in late February for those who wanted to try it out.

Such a release allows thousands of users world-wide to try out the unfinished system and tell Microsoft what they like and don't like – often in no uncertain terms. It makes sense for Microsoft to do this because they get price-less feedback from interested parties. This enables them to make many modifications/improvements before the final release.

Microsoft has done this for previous releases, generally to our benefit. When they once failed to do it properly they caught a blast of adverse press that they will not wish to repeat.

Steve undertook to look at '8', and talk to us about it in language that we could understand.

As its number 8 indicates, there are early versions, the current one being (unsurprisingly) Windows 7. Windows 7 is coming up to its third birthday and is quite different in many ways from its predecessor-but-one Windows XP, but is still based on the underlying fundamen-

tals set up for Windows 95 (in 1995).

Seventeen years is a long, long time in computing development. Digital photos; music; mobile phones; Internet; broadband; ipods; tablet computers, sat-nav. have all been added to the repertoire – and more recently, touch-screen technology and Apps (cheap, tiny fun applications) and digital book readers. Oh, and just a few more games.

You must have seen someone flicking through App icons on an iPhone or iPad and doing amazing things without a mouse in sight.

Windows 8 is designed to integrate many of these features

under a single operating system to serve all the types of hardware.

The presentation showed a screen that was more closely related to a tablet screen, covered in tiles representing applications which were turned on by touch. The operation looks slick and effective, but if you are not used to mobile phones with Apps and a camera, you will have to adjust to get the full benefit, if you want it.

You can operate in PC mode with keyboard, monitor and mouse if you don't have, or want, a touch screen. Microsoft says that any machine that will run Windows 7 will run Windows 8. A lot of peo-

ple still choose to continue with the earlier Windows XP for as long as possible. Young people are keen to update, but we suspect older folk will resist having to re-train every few years.

It's a simple matter to Google Windows 8 and browse to get a flavour of what it looks like, but it will change considerably before final release. We'll keep an eye on it.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, March 27 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, 7.30pm for 8pm. Kevin S will be explaining E-Bay. For more information ring Mike on 02920 309579.

HOWARD DESMOND

## Badminton for juniors



Ethan Barber, Antony Jomon, David Johnson and Akash Benny are among the youngsters playing badminton at the new club.

A NEW badminton club for skills. Complete beginners are welcome, and each child's first session is free, with weekly subsequent sessions costing £2.

Each Sunday between 6pm and 7pm, boys and girls aged nine and above are invited to develop their

The new club is part of the 5x60 scheme, a Sport Wales initiative run locally by the Vale Council.

## THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (ST ANDREWS ROAD (PART), DINAS POWYS) (30MPH SPEED RESTRICTION AND AMENDMENT) ORDER 2012

On the 19th March 2012 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) and of all other enabling powers made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the Schedule below.

The Order will come into operation on the 2nd April 2012 or on the date the necessary signs are in place, whichever is the later. A copy of the Order and a plan showing the affected area may be seen at the address shown below during normal office hours.

If you wish to question the validity of the Order, or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act, or on the grounds that any requirement of the same, or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 2nd April 2012 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

### SCHEDULE

Proposed 30 miles per hour speed restriction

Make new Order

St Andrews Road, Dinas Powys

No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to travel at a speed greater than 30 mph on St Andrews Road from a point approximately 775 metres west of Highwalls Road to a point approximately 250 metres east of its junction with Argae Lane, a distance of approximately 1030 metres.

Existing 20mph Speed Restriction

Amend Existing Order

Amend:- "The Vale of Glamorgan Council (St. Andrews Road (Part), Britway Road (Part) and Merevale, Dinas Powys) (20mph Zone) Order 2007".

In Schedule 1

Paragraph (2)

To read:-

Britway Road (Part) and St. Andrews Road (Part), Dinas Powys - from a point approximately 40 metres west of its junction with Highwalls Road, westwards for a distance of approximately 775 metres.

Dated this 29th day of March 2012.

Mr. M. Punter, Head of Visible Services, Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA

## CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

GORCHYMYN (CYFYNGU CYFLYMDRA I 30 M.Y.A. A NEWID CYFYNGIAD CYFLYMDRA) (RHAN O ST. ANDREW'S ROAD, DINAS POWYS) 2012

Ar 19 Mawrth 2012 gwnaeth Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adran 84 o Ddeddf Rheoli Traffig 1984 (ddiwygiedig), a phob p. er galluogi arall, Orchymyn i'r diben cyfyndolol a ddisgrifir yn yr Atodlen isod.

Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 2 Ebrill 2012, neu ar y dyddiad y bydd yr holl Anwyddion Traffig angenrheidiol yn eu lle, pa un bynnag a fo'r dyddiad ddiweddaraf. Bydd copi o'r Gorchymyn i'w weld yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol.

Os hoffech ddadlau'n erbyn dilyniadwyd y Gorchymyn, neu'i ddarpariaethau am na chredwch fod gan y ddeddf uchod b. er i'w gweithredu, neu am y tybiwch eu bod yn methu â chydymffurfio â gofynion y ddeddf uchod, neu un o'i hofferiynau, bydd gennych chwe wyfynnos o 2 Ebrill 2012 i wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r diben hwnnw.

### ATODLEN

Cynnig ar gyfer cyfyngu cyflymdra i 30 m.y.a.

Gwneler Gorchymyn newydd

St Andrew's Road, Dinas Powys

Ni fydd neb yn gyrru nac yn achosi na chaniatáu i neb arall yrru unrhyw gerbyd yn gyflymach na 30 m.y.a. ar hyd St Andrew's Road rhwng man sydd ryw 775 metr i'r gorllewin o Highwalls Road a man arall rhyw 250 metr i'r dwyrain o'r gyffordd ag Argae Lane, sef pellter o ryw 1030 metr i gyd.

Gorchymyn cyfredol sy'n cyfyngu cyflymdra i 20 m.y.a.

Diwygier y Gorchymyn cyfredol

Diwygier:- Gorchymyn Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2007 ar gyfer cyfyngu cyflymdra i 20 m.y.a. yn rhan o St. Andrew's Road, rhan o Britway Road a Merevale, Dinas Powys.

Newidier Atodlen 1

Paragraff (2)

fel y canlyn:-

Rhan o Britway Road a rhan o St. Andrew's Road, Dinas Powys - o fan sydd ryw 40 metr o'r gyffordd â Highwalls Road, am ryw 775 metr i gyfeiriad y gorllewin.

Dyddiedig 29 Mawrth 2012.

Mr. M. Punter

Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Gweladwy, Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Canolfan yr Alpau, Gwentô. CF5 6AA



**1 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AA**  
**Sales: 01446 736888**  
**Lettings: 01446 734668**  
[www.homesonview.co.uk](http://www.homesonview.co.uk)  
[www.ninaestateagents.co.uk](http://www.ninaestateagents.co.uk)



website:  
[www.ninaestateagents.co.uk](http://www.ninaestateagents.co.uk)  
 email:  
[enquiries@ninaestateagents.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ninaestateagents.co.uk)



**BOROUGH AVENUE, BARRY**  
 Extended semi detached, three bedrooms, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, enclosed garden, driveway providing parking.  
**£149,950**



**PURDEY CLOSE, BARRY**  
 Envious plot, three bedrooms, semi detached, larger than average garden, ample room to extend (subject to usual planning consent). Driveway for many cars. No chain. Upvc double glazing. Gas central heating.  
**£149,950**



**CLIVE ROAD, BARRY**  
 End of terrace traditional. Gas central heating via combi. Living room, 3 bedrooms, loft room with velux suitable for hobbies. 2011 replacement bathroom (ground floor). Sea views across waterfront. Garage to rear. Viewing recommended.  
**£125,995**



**THE GROVE, BARRY**  
 Mid terraced, Edwardian traditional. Original features. Three reception rooms, spacious kitchen, three bedrooms, enclosed garden. Hot tub to remain. Walks to beaches.  
**£234,950**



**GREENACRES, BARRY**  
 Three bedrooms, modern semi detached, living room with French doors, fitted kitchen opening to dining room (converted garage). Pull down ladder leading to hobby room with velux window. Enclosed private rear garden. Double driveway in width. Offered with no chain.  
**£149,950**



**CONWAY DRIVE, BARRY**  
 Three bedrooms, living room, replacement fitted kitchen, dining room, sitting room/fourth bedroom, enclosed garden, driveway.  
**£179,950**



**DAWAN CLOSE, BARRY**  
 Three bedrooms modern mid terraced. Living room, spacious kitchen/diner, wc cloakroom, gas central heating, upvc double glazing throughout. Enclosed rear garden. Lane access.  
**£127,950**



**LAKIN DRIVE, BARRY**  
 Modern detached, five bedrooms, spacious family home. Two reception rooms, kitchen/diner - integrated appliances. Viewed with no chain. Driveway/garage. Offers over-look the Vale.  
**£314,950**



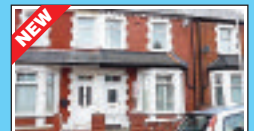
**MOREL STREET, BARRY**  
 Mid terraced traditional, well presented, two reception rooms, extended kitchen, upvc double glazing, gas central heating. Enclosed rear garden, lane access. Town centre location.  
**£99,950**



**STATION STREET, BARRY**  
 Three bedrooms, mid terraced traditional, through living room, kitchen/diner, spacious family bathroom, upvc double glazing, gas central heating. Town centre location.  
**£123,500**



**GUTHRIE STREET, BARRY**  
 Two bedrooms, forecourted front, mid terraced traditional, through living room, downstairs shower room/utility, upvc double glazing, gas central heating, 1st floor bathroom. Walking distance to shops.  
**£104,950**



**LABURNAM CLOSE, BARRY**  
 Ground floor apartment, 2 double bedrooms, upvc double glazing and gas central heating via combi. Parking to the rear. An enclosed low maintenance garden. No chain.  
**£79,950**



**COLLEGE PLACE, BARRY**  
 Three bedrooms, semi-detached property. West End location, extensive views from rear. Off road parking, gas central heating via combi boiler, upvc double glazing, viewing advised.  
**£146,950**



**ROMILLY AVENUE, BARRY**  
 Mid terraced, traditional dwelling, popular family home. Two reception rooms, four bedrooms, enclosed rear garden. No chain.  
**£229,950**



**WESTWARD RISE, BARRY**  
 Modern detached, 4 bedrooms, upvc double glazing, gas central heating, conservatory, two reception rooms, utility room, downstairs cloakroom, driveway leading to garage. Enclosed garden. Sought after location.  
**£239,950**



**RIDGEWAY ROAD, BARRY**  
 Stunning, well presented, three bedroomed semi. 2 reception rooms, original block flooring, spacious plot, approved plans for extension, upvc double glazing, gas central heating. Brick built workshop. Ample parking.  
**£194,950**



**CLOS CELYN, BARRY**  
 Modern end of link. Three bedrooms, wc cloakroom, living room, kitchen/diner, enclosed garden. Gate leading to parking.  
**£154,950**



**TITHE BARN, RHOOSE**  
 Barn conversion, spacious living accommodation. Sea views from rear. Five bedrooms, three bathrooms, three reception rooms, double garage, also separate detached bungalow.  
**£725,000**



**HEOL GILFYNIDYR, BARRY**  
 End of terraced, modern Bovis built, wc, cloakroom, living room, kitchen/diner, three bedrooms, ensuite bathroom. Garage to rear. Accessible from garden.  
**£164,950**



**SEVERN AVENUE, BARRY**  
 Three bedrooms, modern mid terraced, wc cloakroom, kitchen/diner, living room-conservatory, stairs rising to hobby area in attic. Backing onto allotments. Parking.  
**£129,950**



**BROOKFIELD AVENUE, BARRY**  
 Three bedroomed, master (ensuite), modern linked detached. Converted garage. Paved driveway, living room/dining. Kitchen/breakfast. Enclosed rear garden.  
**£182,950**



**YORK PLACE, BARRY**  
 Spacious traditional, end of terraced, 5/6 bedrooms, versatile living, three bathrooms, enclosed garden, garage. Minutes walk to train station.  
**£190,000**



**PONTYPRIDD ROAD, BARRY**  
 Three bedroomed, semi detached, traditional box bay fronted, two reception rooms, utility and wc cloak, larger than average garden. Driveway, offered with no chain.  
**£189,950**



**KINGSLAND CRESCENT, BARRY**  
 Spacious traditional bay fronted, cul de sac position. Three reception rooms, kitchen, five bedrooms, family bathroom. Garage. No chain. 2010 upvc replacement windows.  
**£124,950**



**CWM BARRY WAY, BARRY**  
 Extended semi-detached, three bedrooms, through living room, sitting/office, dining room, wc cloak, utility room, kitchen, breakfast, enclosed garden. Driveway/garage.  
**£219,950**



**PICTON ROAD, RHOOSE**  
 Four bedroomed, modern semi detached. Living room, kitchen/breakfast, wc cloak, enclosed rear garden, driveway/garage. Sea views from rear windows.  
**£167,750**



**SOUTHBOURNE COURT, BARRY**  
 Approx 20 years old. Modern semi detached dormer bungalow, fitted kitchen, living room/dining room, two double bedrooms, upvc double glazed, gas central heating via a combination boiler. Double driveway in width for ample parking. Enclosed low maintenance garden.  
**£124,950**



**OAKFIELD ROAD, BARRY**  
 Three bedrooms, extended semi, living/dining room, snug/breakfast area. 17ft fitted kitchen, garage/driveway, well presented, enclosed low maintenance garden.  
**£189,950**



**TAF CLOSE, BARRY**  
 Three bedroomed, modern detached, living room with French doors, wc cloakroom, kitchen/breakfast, front, side and rear gardens. Garage/driveway. No chain.  
**£194,950**



**VALE STREET, BARRY**  
 Three double bedrooms, living/dining room, spacious kitchen/breakfast. Ground floor bathroom, upvc double glazing, gas central heating. Large brick built shed. Lane access. No chain.  
**£117,500**



**PYRA COURT, OFF NICHOLAS ROAD, BARRY**  
 First floor apartment. Communal door entry system. Newly fitted kitchen, living room with balcony, two bedrooms, shower room, upvc double glazing. Enclosed balcony, parking in block.  
**£92,950**



**COOK ROAD, BARRY**  
 Three bedroomed, modern detached, living/dining room, garage/driveway. Enclosed garden, side access.  
**£145,000**



**HARDY CLOSE, BARRY**  
 Fantastic value. Modern detached, four bedrooms, living room/dining room, wc cloakroom, sea views from rear. Enclosed garden. Garage/driveway. Close to Cardiff/M4.  
**£164,950**



**TRINITY STREET, BARRY**  
 Three bedrooms, bay fronted, living room/dining room, kitchen/diner. Enclosed rear garden. Front and rear street parking, upvc double glazing, gas central heating via combi. No chain.  
**£114,950**



**MIMOSA HOUSE, BARRY**  
 Well presented ground floor apartment. Westbury built in approx 2004. Two bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, ensuite bathroom and family bathroom. Two designated parking spaces. No chain.  
**£124,950**



# KNIGHTS

## ESTATE AGENTS • CHARTERED SURVEYORS



Barry (01446) 700222

Lettings (01446) 701333

Commercial (01446) 709933



**Walker Road, Barry - £136,950**  
Four bedroom semi detached property • Two reception rooms • Kitchen • Downstairs shower room and modern first floor bathroom • UPVC double glazing • Enclosed rear garden • Potential for off road parking



**Porthkerry Road, Barry - £139,000**  
3/4 bedroom terrace property, set over three floors offering flexible accommodation • Modern kitchen, dining room and bathroom • UPVC double glazing • GCH • Low maintenance garden accessed from kitchen



**Rhodfa Sweldon, The Waterfront, Barry - £139,950**  
Modern 3 bedroom semi detached property • Modern kitchen/diner with integrated appliances • Downstairs wc and first floor bathroom • Enclosed south facing mature rear garden • double driveway



**Esgid Mair, Pencoedre Village, Barry - £229,950**  
Modern 4 bedroom detached property • Lounge with double doors through to dining room • Conservatory • Modern fitted kitchen/breakfast room • Utility room • Downstairs wc • Family bathroom & ensuite shower room



**Porthkerry Road, Barry - £150,000**  
Rare to the market place • 5 bedroom, 3 storey, mid terrace property situated in the West End of Barry • 3 reception rooms • Kitchen • First floor bathroom • Enclosed rear garden • Far reaching sea views • In need of restoration



**Gelyn Y Cler, Pencoedre Village, Barry - £219,950**  
Modern 4 bedroom detached property • Lounge with double doors through to dining room • Modern fitted kitchen/breakfast room • Conservatory • Utility room • Downstairs wc • Family bathroom & ensuite



**Gwalch Y Penwaig, Barry Island - £179,950**  
Well presented modern 3 bedroom mid link property • Lounge & conservatory • Modern extended kitchen • Downstairs wc, 2 ensuite shower rooms and family bathroom • UPVC double glazing • Enclosed landscaped rear garden • Garage and driveway



**Sherbourne Close, Highlight Park, Barry - £227,000**  
4 bedroom detached property set on a good size plot • Lounge with double doors through to dining room • Kitchen with integrated appliances • Landscaped south facing rear garden • Summerhouse to remain • Garage



**Cambourne Close, Highlight Park, Barry - £229,500**  
3 bedroom detached true bungalow, set in a cul-de-sac location • 19'3" Lounge/dining room with bay window • Fitted kitchen with appliances to remain • 2 double bedrooms and one single bedroom • Generous rear garden



**Lakin Drive, Highlight Park, Barry - £229,950**  
Rare to the market place • 2/3 bedroom bungalow • 17'10" lounge/dining room • Modern fitted kitchen • Conservatory • Shower room & cloakroom • Enclosed gardens to front, side & rear • Driveway & single garage



**Heol Y Dryw, Rhooose Point - £229,950**  
Immaculately presented 4 bedroom town house • sitting room, kitchen & conservatory to ground level • Modern fitted kitchen with integrated appliances • Further lounge to first floor • Family bathroom, 2 ensuite shower rooms & downstairs wc • Driveway for 2 vehicles



**Conway Drive, Barry - £234,950**  
4 bedroom detached property • 3 reception rooms • Fitted kitchen with some built in appliances • Utility room • Conservatory • Downstairs wc, ensuite shower room & bathroom • Enclosed rear garden • Double driveway • Viewing highly recommended



**Llys Gwent, Pencoedre Village, Barry - £214,950**  
Modern 4 double bedroom detached property • Lounge with archway through to dining room • Modern fitted kitchen/breakfast room • Utility room • Downstairs wc • Family bathroom & ensuite shower room • Garage & double driveway



**Rose Cottage, Penmark - £325,000**  
3 bedroom period cottage • 2 reception rooms • Conservatory • Kitchen with some built in appliances • Downstairs wc, ensuite wc & family bathroom • Enclosed garden • garage with planning permission • Off road parking for 2 vehicles



**Colcot Road, Barry - £375,000**  
The property has a spacious & beautifully presented 3 double bedroom • The property had undergone extensive improvements & restoration • A generous family room with french doors leading out to 300ft garden, bay fronted lounge & master bedroom, generous kitchen/diner



**Woodlands Road, Barry - Offers in excess of £100,000**  
Traditional 3 bedroom terrace property, situated in the heart of Barry • Lounge through dining room • Sitting room • Kitchen/breakfast room • First floor bathroom • Built in storage to all bedrooms • Enclosed rear garden



**Fonmon Park Road, Rhooose - £119,950**  
3 bedroom semi detached • 24'2" lounge through dining room • Kitchen with built in oven/inset hob • Conservatory • First floor shower room • Single garage and parking space • Offering for sale with no chain



**Wenvoe Terrace, Barry - £139,950**  
3 bedroom end terrace property with views across Barry and the sea beyond • Situated in the West End of Barry • Lounge through dining room • Fitted kitchen with built in cooker • First floor family bathroom • GCH • Walking distance to High Street and Barry Train station providing links to Cardiff and Bridgend



**Bron Awelon, Garden Suburbs, Barry - £224,950**  
Larger than average 3 double bedroom semi • 27'8" lounge with patio doors opening onto garden • Separate dining room • Fitted solid oak kitchen/breakfast room • Conservatory • Ground level & first floor bathrooms



**Southesk Place, Barry - £175,000**  
3 bedroom semi detached property • Set in cul-de-sac location, situated in the highly sought after Knap area, West End, Barry • Lounge • Dining room • Downstairs wc and first floor shower room • Fitted kitchen • Mature enclosed south facing garden



**Lon Fferm Felin, Woodlands Rise, Barry - £226,950**  
4 bedroom detached residence located in a cul-de-sac • Lounge with double doors through to dining room • Kitchen/breakfast room • Utility room • Downstairs wc, family bathroom & ensuite shower room to master bedroom



**David Davies House, Wyndham Street, Barry - £49,950**  
1 double bedroom ground floor apartment • Residents parking • Communal garden area • Applicants must be 60 or over • Asking price is for 70% ownership of the apartment with Wales & West Housing contributing the remaining 30%



**Columbus Close, Barry - £112,950**  
2 double bedroom end terrace property situated off Skomer Road • Lounge • Modern kitchen/diner • First floor bathroom • UPVC double glazing • GCH • Front & rear gardens • Off road parking for 1 vehicle • In walking distance of Pencoedre playing field



**Amherst Crescent, Barry Island - £125,950**  
4 bedroom terrace property • Property would benefit from some modernisation • 2 reception rooms kitchen with some appliances to remain • First floor shower room • Outhouses, shed and green house



**Dock View Road, Barry - £149,950**  
Traditional 3 bedroom terrace property • 26'11" Lounge/family room • Further reception room • Fitted kitchen with built in cooker • First floor bathroom • Offered with no chain



**Glan Hafren, Barry - £179,950**  
2 double bedroom ground floor apartment • Situated on the edge of the beach in the desirable Knap area • Lounge and sun room • Fitted kitchen • Cloakroom & bathroom • Single garage • Further communal overflow parking • No chain



**Murlande Way, Rhooose - £206,995**  
4 bedroom detached property • 3 reception rooms • Modern kitchen with some appliances to remain • Large conservatory • Downstairs wc, family bathroom and ensuite shower room to master bedroom • Enclosed private rear garden



**Pleasant View, Barry - £260,000**  
3 bedroom detached true bungalow • 2 reception rooms • Modern kitchen/breakfast room and bathroom • Conservatory (Constructed in 2010) • Enclosed rear garden • 2 driveways providing parking for 3/4 vehicles



**Marine Drive, Barry - £349,000**  
3 double bedroom detached property • Cloakroom • 2 reception rooms • Utility area • Enclosed low maintenance rear garden • Driveway & tandem (Double Length) garage • Panoramic views



**Westward Rise, Barry - £364,950**  
4 double bedroom detached family home • 3 reception rooms • Conservatory • Modern newly fitted kitchen • Utility room & downstairs wc • Family bathroom with jacuzzi bath & ultra modern shower • Ensuite to master bedroom • Sauna & heated swimspa

84 High Street, BARRY CF62 7DX • www.knights.uk.com



**APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 4 April 2012**

To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at **HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk** or apply in writing to:  
**Vale of Glamorgan Council**  
 Housing Department  
 Civic Offices Holton Road,  
 Barry CF63 4RU or  
**Newydd Housing Association**  
 121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

Vale of Glamorgan Council    Vale of Glamorgan Council    Newydd Housing Association  
 United Wales    United Wales    Wales and West Housing Association

**EDWARD STREET, BARRY**

**H4U Reference 208896**  
**Suitable for a single person, couple or family - no pets**  
 • Two-bedroom flat  
 • Upstairs  
 • Central heating  
 • Double glazing  
**Rent £73.27 per week** including water and service charges

**LENNOX GREEN, BARRY**

**H4U Reference 251544**  
**Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 - no pets**  
 • One-bedroom flat  
 • Central heating  
 • Double glazing  
 • Community alarm  
**Rent £80.84 per week** including water, service and alarm charges

**MERTHYR DYFAN ROAD, BARRY**

**H4U reference 216154**  
**Suitable for a family**  
 • Two-bedroom house  
 • Gas central heating  
 • Double glazing  
 • Gardens  
**Rent £87.45 per week** including water charges

**NORTH WALK, BARRY (2)**

**H4U Reference 217782**  
**Suitable for a single person or couple over 40 - no pets**  
 • (2) One-bedroom flats  
 • Upstairs  
 • Central heating  
 • Double glazing  
**Rent £76.68 per week** including water rates and service charge

**ST GARMON ROAD, PENARTH**

**H4U reference 1087101**  
**Suitable for a family**  
 • Two-bedroom house  
 • Gas central heating  
 • Double glazing  
 • Enclosed rear garden  
 • Parking  
**Rent £76.84 per week** including service charge

**TENSING TERRACE, BARRY**

**H4U Reference 225997**  
**Suitable for a single person, couple or family**  
 • Two-bedroom flat  
 • First floor  
 • Central heating  
 • Double glazing  
**Rent £77.20 per week** including water and service charges

**TY GWENFO, BARRY**

**H4U reference 966175**  
**Suitable for a single person over 40 - no pets**  
 • One-bedroom flat  
 • First floor (no lift)  
 • Gas central heating  
 • Double glazing  
 • Communal entrance  
 • Parking  
**Rent £73.42 pw** including service and water charges

**NEW DEVELOPMENT AT GOLWG Y COED, PENCOEDTRE LANE, BARRY**

Wales & West Housing Association, in partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Taylor Wimpey, are proud to announce our exciting new development of 20 homes which will be available for affordable rent from August 2012.

These high quality, energy efficient new homes at Golwg y Coed, Pencoedtre Lane, will be ideally located for local schools and convenient transport links.

Golgwg y Coed will comprise 20 houses: 10 x two bedroom, 8 x three bedroom and 2 x four bedroom, with affordable rents starting from approximately £97 per week.

In letting these new properties, priority will be given to HOMES4U members, who have a local connection with Barry.

Expressions of interest are now invited from HOMES4U members with the deadline for receipt being Friday 20th April 2012. No expressions will be accepted after the closing date.

**OAK COURT, PENARTH**

**H4U reference 1082877**  
**Suitable for single person over 60 (55 with medical issues)**  
 • Studio Flat  
 • First Floor (with lift)  
 • Double Glazing  
 • Central heating  
 • Community Alarm  
**Rent £92.55 per week** including service charge

**FEEDBACK**

Address	Bids	Band	Reg.
Belle Vue Close	22	Silver+	12/01/12
Carne Court	42		21/04/11
Melrion Close	80	Gold +	20/09/11
Myrtle Close	91		01/03/11
Newhouse Court	29	Silver	27/11/06
Nightingale Place	60	Gold	18/08/11
Oak Court	10	Gold+	23/11/10
Pendine Close	53		18/07/11
Queens Road	32		18/07/11
Springfield Rise	26	Silver+	19/11/11
St Davids Crescent	100	Gold	01/07/11
Trehame Road	66	Gold	18/05/11



**You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes.**

When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference. All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness. Newydd is a charitable housing association.





**Lewis Street, Barry**

2 Bedrooms  
Top Floor  
Gas CH

Call Gail 01446 709943

**£69,950**

**Greenway Court, Barry**

2 Bedrooms  
Immaculate; Parking Space  
Enclosed Rear Garden

Call Gail 01446 709943

**£109,950**

**Evans Street, Barry**

3 Bedrooms  
1st Floor Bathroom  
Town Centre Location

Call Gail 01446 709943

**£109,950**



**Chris Davies**

**High Street, Barry**

3 Bedrooms  
2 Receptions  
1st Floor Bathroom

Call Gail 01446 709943

**£129,950**

**Barry Road, Barry**

3 to 4 Bedrooms  
2 to 3 Receptions  
Superbly Improved

Call Gail 01446 709943

**£199,950**

**Heol Leubren, Barry**

4 Double Bedrooms  
Private Family Rear Garden  
Immaculate Order Throughout

Call Gail 01446 709943

**£215,000**

**Rhose 01446 711900**  
**Llantwit Major 01446 792020**  
**Barry 01446 700007**  
sales@chris-davies.co.uk

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**The Grove, Barry**

4 Bedrooms  
3 Receptions  
Bathroom; En-Suite

Call Gail 01446 709943

**£249,950**

**Lakin Drive, Barry**

5 Bedrooms  
Large Enclosed Rear Garden  
Luxury Bathroom/En-Suite

Call Gail 01446 709943

**£314,950**

**Thaw Close, Rhose**

2 Double Bedrooms  
Sunny Rear Garden  
Quiet Cul-De-Sac

Call Andrew 01446 713005

**£123,950**

**Lets!**

Ty Levant, Barry  
Furnished 1 bedroom ground floor flat £450 pcm

Seapoint, Barry  
Unfurnished 1 bedroom 2nd floor flat £495 pcm

Lougher Place, St Athan  
Unfurnished 2 bedroom 1st floor flat £495 pcm

Murlande Way, Rhose  
Unfurnished 2 bedroom house £500 pcm

Eagle Road, St Athan  
Unfurnished 2 bedroom house £525 pcm

Courtlands, Barry  
Unfurnished 2 bed first floor flat £550 pcm

Ty Cwmpas, Barry  
Unfurnished 2 bedroom 1st floor flat £525 pcm

Shakleton Close, St Athan  
Furnished 3 bedroom house £595pcm

Pyke Street, Barry  
Refurbished 3 bedroom house £625pcm

Three Ships Court, Mumbles, Swansea  
Unfurnished 3 bedroom house £795 pcm

Cartref St Donat's  
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## Birthdays

**ANYSHA PANESAR**  
**Happy 18th Birthday**  
to our Darling Granddaughter Anysha (March 29th)  
Love & Hugs  
Nan & Bampi XXX

**Happy Birthday DON JOHN**  
on **2nd April**  
from all your friends at The GEM

## Family Notices

**GRATTON Reg**

Jane, Den and family would like to thank all who attended the Funeral Service and for the lovely flowers. We would like to thank Reverend Malcom Davies from Rhosce for the lovely service given and to everyone who attended. Special thanks to Anthony from A.G. Adams Funeral Directors.

**WALLS Hilda Ruth**

Sadly, I, Ken Walls, have to report the death of my dear wife, Ruth on March 22. She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral Service at 2.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend on Thursday, April 5. Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon, donations in lieu if desired may be sent to RNLI c/o J James, 11 Fommon, Rhosce, CF62 3DZ.

**COOPER Stan**

The family of the late Stan Cooper would like to thank all who attended his service and those that gave donations to the P.D.S.A.

Also thanks to the doctors and nurses at the Cowbridge & Western Vale Group Practice, to Daphne Townsend for the wonderful service, the staff at the White Hart, Kate who made the Welsh cakes and Arthur and Carole at the Funeral Home.

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# RUNNERS ENJOY THE SUN AS THEY RAISE MONEY FOR SPORT RELIEF

PHOTOGRAPHS by ANDY WICKS



THE Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile was held at Barry Island on Sunday, March 25 – and lots of people from the Vale took part in it to raise funds for charity.

Sport Relief helps the lives of people in the UK and abroad.

The weather could not have been more perfect for the event with blazing sunshine and rising temperatures.

As you can see from GEM photographer Andy Wicks' images, young and old – and a few four-legged friends – were only too keen to help one of the nation's great causes.



## Articles For Sale

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The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel 01446 774484. Advert must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may alter your advert as items are sold. Sorry no refunds are given.

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## LEGAL, PUBLIC PROTECTION & HOUSING SERVICES

### MARRIAGE ACT 1994 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

Take notice that the above department has received the following application under the above Act from Cottrell Park Ltd for Cottrell Park Golf Club, Cottrell Park, St. Nicholas, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF5 6JY to be a premise approved as a venue for Marriage and Civil Partnership Ceremonies.

This application and associated plans are available for public inspection between 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m., Monday to Friday at the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU.

Any person wishing to object to the grant of this approval should write to the above address giving reasons for their objection within 21 days of the date of publication of this notice.

**Peter H Evans**  
Director of Legal,  
Public Protection & Housing Services



## GWASANAETHAU CYFREITHIOL, AMDDIFFYN Y CYHOEDD A THAI DEDDF PRIODAS 1994 A DEDDF PARTNERIAETH SIFIL 2004

Noder fod yr adran uchod wedi derbyn y cais canlynol o dan y Ddeddf uchod gan Barc Cottrell Cyf ar gyfer Clwb Golf Parc Cottrell, Parc Cottrell, Sain Nicolas, Y Barri, Bro Morgannwg CF5 6JY i fod yn safle a gymeradwyir fel lleoliad ar gyfer Seremonïau Priodas a Phartneriaeth Sifil.

Mae'r cais hwn a chynlluniau cysylltiedig ar gael i'r cyhoedd eu harchwilio rhwng 9.00am - 4.00pm, dydd Llun i ddydd Gwener yn y Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Heol Holton, Y Barri CF63 4RU.

Dylai unrhyw un sydd am wrthwynebu'r cais hwn ysgrifennu i'r cyfeiriad uchod yn rhoi rhesymau am y gwrthwynebiad o fewn 21 diwrnod i ddyddiad cyhoeddi'r hysbysiad hwn.

**Peter H Evans**  
Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol,  
Amddiffyn y Cyhoedd a Thai

## LEGAL, PUBLIC PROTECTION & HOUSING SERVICES

### MARRIAGE ACT 1994 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

Take notice that the above department has received the following application under the above Act from Mr Pietro and Mrs Sandra Cancelliere for Manor House Hotel, Heol Sully, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan, CF64 2TQ to be a premise approved as a venue for Marriage and Civil Partnership Ceremonies.

This application and associated plans are available for public inspection between 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m., Monday to Friday at the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU.

Any person wishing to object to the grant of this approval should write to the above address giving reasons for their objection within 21 days of the date of publication of this notice.

**Peter H Evans**  
Director of Legal,  
Public Protection & Housing Services



## GWASANAETHAU CYFREITHIOL, AMDDIFFYN Y CYHOEDD A THAI DEDDF PRIODAS 1994 A DEDDF PARTNERIAETH SIFIL 2004

Noder fod yr adran uchod wedi derbyn y cais canlynol o dan y Ddeddf uchod gan Mr Pietro a Mrs Sandra Cancelliere ar gyfer Manor House Hotel, Heol Sully, Penarth, Bro Morgannwg CF64 2TQ i fod yn safle a gymeradwyir fel lleoliad ar gyfer Seremonïau Priodas a Phartneriaeth Sifil.

Mae'r cais hwn a chynlluniau cysylltiedig ar gael i'r cyhoedd eu harchwilio rhwng 9.00am - 4.00pm, dydd Llun i ddydd Gwener yn y Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Heol Holton, Y Barri CF63 4RU.

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**Peter H Evans**  
Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol,  
Amddiffyn y Cyhoedd a Thai







The students show off their collection of medals and trophies.

## Kansei Karate's success in the Welsh Karate League

KANSEI Karate School and its members recently enjoyed success in the Welsh Karate League which took place over the past year around various venues in Wales.

They came third in the overall league table out of 19 other clubs behind Vale Karate (winners) and Ken Bu Kan (second).

They travelled as far as Wrexham to compete for points, individually and for the club, aspiring to win their respective category league table.

Kansei began the year with a handful of competitors, however, gradually more and more began to enter kata (sequence of karate moves) or kumite (sparring) in the tournament.

For Kansei Karate School, the WKL has helped to develop a team of currently 20 competitors, some of who have enjoyed great success.

Thomas Kerslake, along with Vale Karate's Emma Squire, won the overall category in the under-12s 4th Kyu and below kata.

Both have shone in this category and when they finished on level points, it was decided that they should share the win rather than have them perform a tie-break kata.

The Welsh Karate League's main intention is to develop future champions and in this category alone, two were born and will hopefully go on to

compete for their national team one day.

Team coach and Kansei Karate's senior instructor, Andrew Kanias, easily took the men's kata category after a year of consistent performances, the only other overall gold.

However, Kathryn Collis has continued to impress and took silver overall in the under-14s 4th Kyu and below kata along with five third places in kumite and kata earned by Edward Bailey (who won bronzes in both kumite and kata), Dylan Daniels (who also won bronzes in both kumite and kata) and Jon Brooks (kata).

Thanks to the Welsh Karate League, Kansei now have many more aspiring youngsters hoping, one day, to represent their country at the most prestigious tournaments.

KKS have recently won a Vale Community Chest grant for £1,500 for their Rhosce Community Centre club that will fund training mats and help to develop its youngsters even more.

Senior instructor Andrew would like to thank the Community Chest for its generous award and also to the organisers of the WKL Tournament which has helped improve the children's capabilities and will continue to do so.

AK

## Barry under-9s so close in tournament

**BARRY** Bees under-9s took part in the Cardiff and Vale under-9s rugby tournament at Llantwit Major this weekend.

The Bees were drawn against Llandaff and Rumney, in the group stage. The boys started slowly but managed to grind out a win against Llandaff 3-2, with tries from Jacob Pereira, Cole Saunders and Cian Anderson.

They began to up their game in the second match, and beat Rumney 4-2 with tries from Rhys Lloyd, Isaac McBride, Cian and Cole. This put them through to the knockout stages and they played St Peter's in the quarter finals.

It was a great match and St Peter's played some flowing rugby, but the Bees were beginning to find their form and ran out 4-2 winners, with tries from Ethan Watkins, Rhys, Cole and Cian. This set the Bees up for a semi-final against a very strong Rhiwbina team.

The match was a classic, and both teams played some exceptional Rugby. Rhiwbina made the early running and moved into a 2-0 lead, but the Bees responded with a try from Jacob to keep them in touch. Rhiwbina went over again to make it 3-1 at the break.

The Bees really turned it on in the second half, and Rhys deservedly put them back in touch with a great try. Rhiwbina countered again and restored their two

try advantage. But now the Bees were piling on the pressure, and Cian went over for another try to set up a nail biting finish.

With the clock ticking down, Barry threw everything at the Rhiwbina line; going through phase after phase. The intensity of the game was exceptional; and in the dying seconds Cian again smashed his way over to take the game into extra time.

It was now a game of nerves as the first try would win the game. The Bees started the stronger and were camped on the Rhiwbina line, but their defence was resolute and the Bees couldn't breach their line.

With no score the teams moved into the second half of extra time and the Bees now came under severe pressure. The tension was unbearable, but the Bees held their nerve and were able to turn the ball over and began to force their way up field through a series of forward drives.

Deep into the second half of extra time the Bees at last broke through and Cian scored the winning try to cap an incredible performance from the whole team.

The final was against an exceedingly good Penarth team who had been running in the tries.

\*The game started at a fast pace, with both teams moving the ball very well. The scoring was tit for tat, and it was soon 3-3, with tries from Cian, Isaac and Harrison Kelly.

The score was a fair reflection of the game, but a late score from Penarth made it 4-3 at half time. With the slope in their favour for the second half, the Bees were certainly still in the game, but their extraordinary endeavours began to take its toll, and their tackles were losing intensity, as Penarth became stronger.

The Bees were still effective with ball in hand and managed three more tries, with two from Jacob, and one from Spencer Williams. But in the later stages Penarth pulled clear to make the final score 9-6 in what was a great advert for under-9 rugby in the district.

It was fantastic day, and one that will live long in the memory; and thanks must go to Llantwit Major for hosting the tournament. The boys gave their all on what was a bruising and tiring day with some of the new recruits getting their first taste of competitive rugby.

The success augurs well for the remainder of the season. The coaching and management team would like to thank all the boys for an outstanding effort.

Squad: Rhys Lloyd, Jacob Pereira, Isaac McBride, Ethan Watkins, Charlie Bale, Cole Saunders, Spencer Williams, Seb Fahiya, Harrison Kelly, Cian Anderson, Stephen Williams, Morgan Taylor, Robson Mallam, Joseph Nationstead.

JM

# NICK SHINES AT POINT-TO-POINT

Nick Williams, of the Ogmere Pony Trekking Centre, was the rider in form at the Glamorgan Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Ystradowen on Saturday.

Thousands of racegoers witnessed Nick, the younger brother of sidelined National Hunt jockey Christian, land a hat-trick of wins.

His first visit to the winner's enclosure came after he won the first division of the split four,

five, six and seven-year-olds confined maiden race on Keith Pritchard's five-year-old homebred brown gelding *Prince Eleanor*, who took up the running four fences from the finish to win by six lengths from the odds-on favourite *Rappel D'Estraval* (Matthew Barber).

John Mathias was leading the field on *Coosan Lad* which fell at the second open ditch and Mathias sustained a head and face injuries which put him out of action for the rest of the afternoon.

Alan Johns who finished fourth on *Rule The Roost* was fined £40 for not weighing-in.

Nick's next two wins were in the mixed open on *Misamom* and the restricted on *Towering Run* and both came courtesy of the injured Mathias.

*Misamom* took over the lead from the odds-on favourite *The Snail* with three to jump - *The Snail* then fell at the penultimate fence to win by a distance from *Amazing Request* (Byron Moorcraft) and *Towering Run* scored by 15 lengths from *Son Of Swallow* (Evan David).

Dave Worgan's *Augustus Gibbons*, a six-year-old bay gelding by *Oscar*, which had lost its maiden tag at the recent Currie & Llangibby meeting, won the opening members' race under Bradley Gibbs and will now go for the Dunraven Bowl at Chepstow on April 27.

The second division of the four, five, six and seven-year-olds' maiden went to Eric Clough's *Kingspark Boy* who came home a distance ahead of *Wiston Dreamer* after five of the ten runners were carried out at the 15th obstacle by one of the hunt's horses which had apparently unshipped its rider dur-

ing the running of the race.

*Kingspark Boy* was ridden by Wayne Maskill who said he had plenty of horse under him at the time of the incident.

Matthew Barber won the eight-year-old and over Glamorgan Hunt Club Members

Conditions Race on Nina Phillips's *Midnight Diamond* who was prominent throughout and who went on to score by eight lengths from *Sheer Brilliance* (Nick Williams) who is trained by Matthew's older brother Marc.

The closest finish of the day came in the eight-year-old and over maiden when *Carmore Star*, partnered by Tom David, got home by half-a-length from *Great Moss* (Matthew Barber) with *Qok* (Josh Harris) a further half-a-length away in third place.

Williams was in action at the Hampshire fixture at Hackwood Park on Sunday and won the men's open on Keith Pritchard's *Chandlers Cross*.

Mr Pritchard also saddled *Canon Bridge* to win the AGA ladies' open race and both these horses like *Prince Eleanor* are trained at Bridgend by Stephen Bevan.

BRIAN LEE

## Football course for budding players

Budding soccer aces can sign up now for a two-day football course that is taking place during the Easter holidays at the Colcot Sports Centre in Barry.

Delivered by UEFA qualified coaches from the Vale of Glamorgan Council's football development centre, the course is being held on Monday and Tuesday, April 9 and 10 between 10am and 3pm each day and is open to young-

sters aged from eight to 14.

To book your child's place please call Danny Elliott on 07810 824463 or email dannyelliott17@hotmail.co.uk.

Please note that spaces are limited and all bookings should be made in advance and will be taken on a first come first served basis.

To find out more about sporting activities taking place for children in the Vale of Glamorgan during the Easter holidays please visit [www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk).

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# Karate group enjoys success

**THIS season's Welsh Karate League was brought to a successful conclusion on Sunday when the long-awaited WKL grand finals took place at Penarth Leisure Centre.**

The Welsh Karate League is a series of competitions, run by some of Wales' most experienced and respected instructors, aimed at giving Wales' grass roots competitors a platform to develop their talents.

Throughout the previous 12 months, competitors and coaches from 19

clubs across Wales have come together to compete at eight friendly inter-club competitions, accumulating points along the way to eventually find the champion of champions in each category.

Vale Karate, based at Barry's YMCA Hub, have been in dominant form all season and no fewer than thirteen of their squad were top of their category rankings going into the grand final, and eager to finally be crowned a WKL champion of champions! Georgia Helleman has been dominant this season, and with a five point lead at the top of

the under-8 Kata category, Georgia literally needed only to show up to be crowned champion of champions.

She cemented her status with three points earned by winning a bronze medal.

Team mate Chiara Baker has improved considerably over the previous months and won her third WKL title of the year, edging herself into second place on the overall ranking. Paige Pesticcio-Croll of Kansei Karate was second on the day.

Christopher Slack had an impressive nine point lead at the top of the under-10 Novice Kata

section, and he progressed to the final to meet team-mate Harrison Williams.

The decision went Harrison's way, to secure him second place on the final ranking.

Harrison later went on to win his fifth WKL Kumite event this season, earning a double on the day and his own championship of champions trophy!

The all-round ethos which is central to Vale Karate's mission was demonstrated several times during the finals.

Kloe Christoforato has achieved the Kata and Kumite 'Double' at the last three league events, and again reached the finals of both her under-12 Kata and Kumite categories, meeting team-mate Alexandra Slack on both occasions.

Kloe was victorious in the Kata, but Alexandra upset the odds in the Kumite, taking her first such title of the year.

Kloe had been three points clear at the top of both her categories, so courtesy of her five and four point winning performances, emerged as a double champion of champions.

Surprise upset of the day was when Kate Beeslee, making her debut at this season's events, beat Ewan Albright in the semi final of the under-10 Advanced Kata and went on to earn the gold medal.

This was Ewan's first

Kata loss of this season's league.

Ewan has led the individual overall rankings since the beginning of the league season, and although under intense pressure from a host of squad mates in both his under-10 Advanced Kata and Kumite categories, he was nevertheless a clear leader at the top of the table.

However, he missed the WKL Wrexham competition which allowed Sam Cana of Swansea's Ken Bu Kan dojo to draw close.

With Sam winning both his events, and Ewan earning only three points in Kata, he needed to win his Kumite category in order to finish in joint first in the overall individual rankings. This he did with a win in the final over Josh Dwyer.

Josh, however, has done enough this season to finish atop the Kumite table. Josh is another great all-rounder as he demonstrated with his third place, alongside Ewan, in the Kata.

A battle royal has gone on all season between Emma Squire and Kansei's Thomas Kerslake in the under-12 Novice Kata. Neither has been beaten by any other competitor! Going into the final, Emma was two points ahead. They met in the semi final, and it was perhaps completely

just that Thomas earned the win, to leave each young champion

deservedly sharing the champion of champions' spot.

Brad Christoforato was Vale Karate's clear-cut winner, taking first place in every one of this season's under-14 Advanced Kata events. He also earned a top three finish in the season's Kumite ranking, with the top spots going to youngsters from The Ken Bu Kan and Fairfield dojos.

Leah Copeland was Vale Karate's last champion in action.

Her crisp and precise Kata performances were in contrast to her all-action Kumite style and she added more silverware to the groaning trophy table with top spots in both the Advanced Ladies Kata and Kumite events.

With 1,014 points, Vale Karate were the most successful club at this season's league, over 400 points ahead of Swansea's Ken Bu Kan in second place.

Vale Karate's sister club Kansei, moved from fourth to third after a successful tournament, with Kansei instructor Andrew Kanias untroubled at the top of the Men's Kata rankings.

The Vale Karate squad are now looking forward to two major events in April; the WKGB Welsh Championships and the Scottish International Open. **RC**

## School's basketballers shine in tournaments

**THE year 11 basketball team from St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School made history over the weekend by winning their league and county Cup finals; remaining unbeaten in both these events from Year 8 through to Year 11.**

A resounding win against Mary Immaculate High School in the County Cup final (55 - 25) means St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School are champions again for the fourth year running.

Additionally they are the reigning under-16 Welsh National School champions; a title they will be defending as they are through once more to the National Finals.

These successes are a massive achievement for the boys and they have set a marker for teams in every other school to try and emulate.

Congratulations to Jamie Deguara, Connor Hetheron, Joseph Harland, Pat Frilles, Adrian Piotrowski, Mebin Abraham, Ashley Steer, Samuel Corria, Dennis Woolfolk and Samuel Lewis.

In addition to being the league champions,

the year 9 basketball team from St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School also won their semi-final matches against Newcastle Emlyn, Glan Afan, Croesyceiliog and Cwm Rhymni, and are through to the Welsh national school finals, following in the footsteps of the Year 11 team.

Congratulations to Dennis Woolfolk, Benjamin Dwyer, Samuel Lewis, Jordan Taylor, Lloyd James, Joshua Dawe and Alexander Martin.

The year 8 basketball team from St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School are also league and county champions, with an emphatic victory over Cardiff High School in the county finals 45 - 26.

Congratulations to Dennis Woolfolk, Ethan John, Brady Thomas, Kieran Horrigan, Paul Petzke, Kieren Ferriday, Ieuan Moss and Dafydd Morgan.

Well done to all the boys involved in achieving huge success in St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School's basketball teams! **CR**

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## MOTORING with TIM SAUNDERS

# THE NEW VW IS WELL MADE - AND HAS BAGS OF CHARM!

Craftsmanship is a word usually associated with hand built British-made cars of the past like Alvis, Aston Martin, Bentley and Rolls Royce.

Given today's fast automated production process, it's not something you expect to find in a modern car.

But the characterful and iconic Volkswagen Golf Cabrio 1.4 TSi GT doesn't only feel really solid, chunky and extremely well put together, it's got bags of charm, too. The German manufacturer has long realised that it's not just about looks but extremely high build quality. The whole car is constructed using decent materials and this is especially noticeable when shutting the doors, which close with a satisfying clunk.

The exterior incorporates clean lines and smooth curves and when looking down on it from above the distinctive black fabric roof contrasts well against the grey paintwork of the test car. From this height it doesn't look that different to an Audi A3. But that's no surprise really as VW owns Audi.

This is the first time

I've actually driven a Volkswagen and I'm certainly not disappointed. On first acquaintance it's one of those cars that's simple to get in and drive. There's no hunting around for an irritating stop/start switch because there's a traditional ignition. And there's a proper handbrake, too, which is a bit of a rarity these days as so many manufacturers seem to prefer replacing them with switches instead.

Excellent heated bucket seats for the driver and front passenger are finished in alcantara upholstery and are really comfy and supportive. Driver and passengers feel that this car fits like a glove. The whole of the interior is well-designed and put together.

Equipment levels are high, too. That lucky driver gets a leather trimmed steering wheel, handbrake and gear knob, centre armrest and electric windows not forgetting the sporty metal foot pedals. Its electrically heated wing mirrors are the most effective I have used, clearing the early morning dew in seconds.

Then there's the electric roof, which quickly retracts in 9.5 seconds and can be operated on



The VW Golf Cabrio 1.4 TSi GT.

the move at speeds up to 18mph. This last fact is useful when baby daughter Harriett is on board. One minute she likes the hood down but then finds that the road noise keeps her awake and so firmly communicates this fact!

Fortunately we're only travelling slowly down a country lane and so the roof rises once more. Calm is restored and before long we arrive at Mottisfont, the National Trust property in Hampshire, to see the springtime snowdrops.

Using the Golf during the week allows me to drive with the roof down, despite the fact that it's 10 degrees Celsius and I leave home at 7am returning 12 hours later. Other motorists look incredulous as I approach them but it's great fun.

Wind in the face really is the best way to wake up before and after work and there are scents and smells that usually escape you.

There's an unexplainable freshness to the world at these times of day although this can sometimes be tainted by the lingering smell of cigarettes. Air vents in the head rests would be a distinct advantage and might have allowed me to drive to sleep in cooler temperatures.

When the roof, with its heated glass rear window, is raised, road noise is virtually non-existent on a par with other hard top hatchbacks and in truth, better than some, which is quite an achievement. Note that what could be considered a competitor, the BMW 1series cabriolet, only incorporates a cheap plastic rear window.

My only concern for the long-term investor is that while VWs are ultra-reliable, I wonder how the electrics will stand the test of time.

Because there's no visible rear pillar, there's nothing to hinder the driver when they look to

overtake. With the roof down it's a joy to manoeuvre and can quite literally take your breath away. This is a strong driver's car fitted with a brilliantly succinct six-speed manual box.

Cruise control is located on the indicator stalk - a more user-friendly position than on the actual steering wheel, I feel.

It's a cabriolet that happily accommodates my baby daughter's car seat (the Renault Wind doesn't). And the boot is large enough to fit Harriett's pushchair, too. Push the VW logo on the boot and it doubles up as a handle, a really neat touch.

Much to my surprise, this petrol cabriolet will easily cover 500 miles on a full tank. It just goes to show that there's still a place for good quality craftsmanship.

VW has just reported that net profits have more than doubled to £13.4bn after it delivered over 8.2 million vehicles, up almost 15 per cent on 2010. I'm not surprised.

Price: £25,310.

Power: 158bhp.

0-60mph: 8.4secs.

Top speed: 134mph.

Economy: 500 miles on a tank.

## Disabled youngsters take to the fairway



St Andrews Major golf club professional John Hastings passing on putting tips to a group of youngsters from the Ashgrove and Ysgol Maes Dyfan special needs schools.

**TWELVE disabled teenagers from two Vale schools are getting in the swing at weekly sessions in St Andrews Major golf club near Barry.**

Many of them from Ashgrove and Ysgol Maes Dyfan special needs schools have never previously played golf.

The sessions have been made possible thanks to a link-up between the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Disability Sport Wales Officer Simon Jones, Golf Development Wales, Wales Disabled Golf and the St Andrews Major Golf Club professional John Hastings, who is giving the youngsters advice.

The club is keen to attract more members with disabilities, and is encouraging people who wouldn't normally have thought about golf to go along and try out the sport.

### ON AND OFF THE TURF

## Paradise Expected is a winner

**PARADISE EXPECTED** was a welcome winner for Aberthyn's Tim Vaughan in the conditional jockeys handicap at Ffos Las.

The 3-1 chance, ridden by Michael Byrne, won by 13 lengths from the top weighted *Pancake*, writes Brian Lee.

Then at Southwell on Monday, Tim's *Destroyer Deployed*, partnered by Richard Johnson, got up on the line to beat *Dannanceys Hill* by a neck.

*Destroyer Deployed* went off the 6-4 favourite in a field of 11 runners.

Brian Lee

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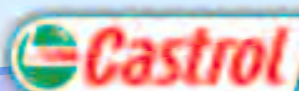
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# GEM sport

## Three is the magic number as Dinas Powys earn victory

**THREE** points for Dinas against the bottom side, but as well as beating Treharris they also had to overcome what has to be one of the worst pitches in the Welsh League with vast bare patches of uneven ground.

A couple of minutes into the game the visitors lost the ball in mid-field with the ball immediately put through for Gareth Tedstone but a defender got a foot to the ball to concede an unproductive corner.

Ten minutes later

Dinas forced a couple of corners with Liam Jeremy and Steve Provis creating a shooting opportunity for Adam Raymond, his 25 yard shot was cleared off the line for a corner.

Dinas took the lead fifteen minutes into the game when Steffan Davies was pushed over in the area, Adam Raymond sent the keeper Mathew Evans the wrong way to score.

Full-back Steve Provis then tried his luck with a powerful 25 yard shot pushed round the post by the keeper.

The visitors seemed able to retain possession but without that attacking cutting edge and at times their defence

### Welsh League Division Two DINAS POWYS 3 TREHARRIS ATHLETIC WESTERN 0

looked a little suspect.

Liam Jeremy had a penalty appeal turned down before a great run by Steffan Davies, beating a couple of defenders, before crossing to the back post, but no forward was on hand to get a finishing touch.

On 26 minutes the visitors paid the price of attempting to play off-side when a ball out of the Dinas defence found the visitors pushing up almost as far as the half-way line, but Gareth Tedstone timed

his run and broke towards the goal before rounding the keeper and passing the ball into an unguarded net.

The visitors came back immediately and had their best chance of the game with Alun Thomas bringing an excellent save out of Damien Lack diving low to save at the foot of his post.

The home side continued to press and create half-chances without adding to the scoreline but went in at the end of the half with a two goal lead.

Neither side created anything in the first 10 minutes of the second-half until Thomas again tested the Dinas keeper with a 20 yard shot but he held the ball comfortably.

Midway through the half the visitors buried themselves deeper in the mire when Keiron Jones was sent off following a second booking and a few minutes later Dinas made sure of the 3 points when Gareth Tedstone was fouled 25 yards from goal and Liam Jeremy

curled the resulting free-kick wide of the keeper and into the corner of the net.

Manager Mark Dunford sent out substitutes Barrie Parker and Will Penikett as Dinas played out the remainder of the game with new signing Adrian Harvie also coming on with 15 minutes to go, but they were content to hold on to what they had.

This win lifted Dinas one place in the league to fourth position with a visit to Aberargoed Buds to come next Saturday.

**Squad:** 1 Damian Lack, 2 Steve Provis, 3 Keiron Harman, 4 Mike Lewis, 5 Dave Penikett (c), 6 Adam Raymond (1), 7 Robbie Fowler, 8 Jordan Phillips, 9 Steffan Davies, 10 Gareth Tedstone (1), 11 Liam Jeremy (1), 12 Adrian Harvie, 14 Will Penikett, 15 Barrie Parker, 16 Mark Dunford, 17, Mathew Trotman.

Next game: Welsh League Division Two, Saturday March 31, Aberargoed Buds v Dinas Powys, kick off 2:30pm.

For further news and fixtures see the club's web site: [www.dinaspowysfc.co.uk](http://www.dinaspowysfc.co.uk) MW

## Barry RFC slip to home defeat

**FROM the dizzy heights of the Grand Slam to the more prosaic world of league rugby!**

A glorious spring afternoon saw third-placed Nantymoel visit the Reservoir Field for a much-awaited return fixture.

Barry opened with a period of controlled and purposeful play. With Deguara and McTavish to the fore, they earned an early penalty.

The kick by Ryan was adjudged to have been successful by a line judge but was overruled by the referee!

Barry were not to be denied and after a period of forward dominance, a pushover try was a fair reward for their efforts. The score was near enough to the posts to make Ryan's conversion a formality.

The visitors did not take this setback lightly. After twenty minutes they scored a long-range try from fully sixty metres. The conversion kick levelled the scoreline.

Back came the home side and, with some good off-loading by Hardy, they worked captain Jones over the whitewash with Ryan adding the extras.

The visitors were then gifted a try by some

### BARRY RFC 19 NANTYMOEL RFC 26

unforgivable indiscipline. There are some Barry players who appear not to understand the folly of talking back to the referee.

On this occasion the official reversed a decision giving Nantymoel possession at a set scrum, from which they scored to take the lead.

To make matters worse they scored again on the stroke of half time. This reverse was a combination of good running lines by the visiting backs and weak defensive tackling by the Barry cover.

The second half started with a much more determined home side on show.

They laid siege to their opponent's line and got just reward with a penalty award under the sticks.

They opted for a quick tap that came to naught. Perhaps a guaranteed three points would have been a better option given that they were only seven points adrift at that juncture.

Now it was for Nantymoel to be in control and their very impressive full back scored a fine try that remained unconverted.

This spurred Barry

into fierce activity with Parker and Hollister in the van. Their perseverance resulted in a late score for McTavish from a driven maul, which was converted.

Barry had lost by just seven points and were left to rue several spurned scoring chances.

**Barry:** Bowditch, O'Sullivan, Hollister, McTavish, Deguara, Parker, King, Jones, Gallivan, Hardy, Alex Evans, Alun Evans, Busitill, Adams, Ryan.

**Subs:** Hoskins, Chucas, Haskell, Bounds, O'Sullivan.

Next Saturday Barry visit Llantwit Major, kick off 2.30pm.

To start the celebration of 125 years of rugby in Barry, a reunion of current and former players and supporters is scheduled at the Rugby Club on Saturday, March 31. It is due to start on the returned of travellers from Llantwit Major.

Entry is free and partners are welcome to swing the lamp, drink some beer and tell some 'stories'.

All this to the musical accompaniment of piano virtuoso Squeak Weekly. CO

## UNDER-16S WIN DERBY BATTLE

**ON a beautiful sunny morning Barry under-16s played away to their old rivals Penarth on Sunday and there was tension on both sides.**

Barry got off to a good start with only a few minutes of the match gone when Rhys Burnett scored the first try of the match for Barry by putting the ball to the left hand side of the posts.

This was successfully converted by Jack Smith giving Barry a 7-0 lead, allowing them to grow in confidence.

The second try for Barry came from Corey Beavis who ran through Penarth's defence to score under the post giving Jack Smith a simple kick over the post.

Penarth's defence was weak for the first half of the match which left room for Barry to take advantage for Jack Legg to score a try, a second try for Corey Beavis and a try for Liam Jones, who scored in the right hand corner just missing the corner flag.

All the tries were successfully converted once again by Jack

Smith who was on form with his kicking.

Barry totally dominated the first half of the match with the score Barry 35 Penarth 7 at half time. Penarth however came back stronger in the second half after substituting a couple of their players.

Barry's defence was good but lapses of concentration at times allowed Penarth to score two tries followed by two successful conversions.

It was a hard fast match for both teams with a lot of passing of the ball and kicking to put the ball down the pitch and gain ground for both teams.

Barry came close to scoring a two more tries but one was held up over the line and the other was knocked out of a Barry player's hands by a tackle from Penarth as Barry went over the line.

The referee warned both teams during the match to calm things down as the tension grew.

It was an exciting match and the crowd enjoyed watching a good game. Barry went on to win the match: Barry 35 - Penarth 21.

Barry under-16s would like to thank their families, friends and supporters especially their sponsor Williams PM for supporting them during this season as a lot of the lads will be moving up to youth next season. TA

## Anyone for badminton?



Badminton is now on the menu at Holm View Leisure Centre. Pictured above is David Stopgate, chair of the Holm View Badminton Club, who is seen passing on tips to Paris Froud. SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 27.

## Atoms frustrated in tournament action

**IT was a frustrating day for the Atoms at the district tournament in Llantwit!**

**GAME 1: ATOMS V PENARTH**

Atoms came out quickly with a promising display, scoring first through D. Griffiths, but back came Dinas.

This game was again of a high standard but the defensive problems came back to haunt us.

Further tries came from D. Griffiths, then another two by Dinas, with Griffiths then securing his hat trick.

The game was equally poised, but the Atoms seemed to be missing something. Take nothing away from Dinas who scored a further three tries, with the Atoms securing a final try through I. Escott.

Final score: Atoms 4 Dinas 6.

**GAME 3: ATOMS V RHIWBINA**

We were all set to leave, but through a surprising twist were given

Penarth 7 **GAME 2: ATOMS V DINAS POWYS**

Off we went again as the Atoms scored first through D. Griffiths, but back came Dinas.

This game was again of a high standard but the defensive problems came back to haunt us.

Further tries came from D. Griffiths, then another two by Dinas, with Griffiths then securing his hat trick.

The game was equally poised, but the Atoms seemed to be missing something. Take nothing away from Dinas who scored a further three tries, with the Atoms securing a final try through I. Escott.

Final score: Atoms 4 Dinas 6.

**GAME 3: ATOMS V RHIWBINA**

We were all set to leave, but through a surprising twist were given

a third game, and played a physical Rhiwbina side who were more than a match.

They scored the first three tries, but we got one back through Z. Fifield, and then Rhiwbina scored another, making final score Atoms 1 Rhiwbina 4.

Even though the results didn't go our way today they will come again, through hard work on the training pitch.

Thank you for entertaining us and trying your best, as it takes a lot of guts and determination to play such a physical game.

**Squad:** D. Griffiths, J. Reid, J. Couch, D. wall, C. Denbury, I. Escott, F. Samad, F. Giosanu, O. Smith, J. Pickup, R. Rendell, J. Parry, Z. Fifield.

DD

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THURSDAY, MARCH 29TH, 2012

GO-AHEAD FOR CELEBRATION BONFIRE ON STALLING DOWN

## Cowbridge aiming to join Queen's Diamond Jubilee beacon chain

COWBRIDGE is planning to join other towns around the UK in lighting a beacon to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The idea has been under consideration for some time, but until last week's meeting of Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council, councillors had been concerned about logistical problems.

The obvious site would be on Stalling Down, and concerns had been expressed about the security of a bonfire that might be built over several days.

cern over the licensing position, and Coun Geoff Cox had been asked to investigate the legal position with the Vale Council legal department.

At last week's meeting, Coun Cox reported that the legal position appeared straightforward, and did not set any major problems.

Also, Coun Jon Harris and Coun Nicola Thomas both reported that they had had encouraging comments from the Cowbridge Chamber of Trade.

Coun Thomas said she had raised the matter at a recent chamber of trade meeting, and had been told that transporting the bon-

**Report by  
PHILIP  
IRWIN**

fire materials to the site on the day was practical. Councillors were also told that the Vale Council is making available a grant of £200 to help town councils put on com-

munity events. The council will have to cost the event, and match the £200 funding to apply for the grant.

The council is to form a steering group to sort out the details.

The councillors on the steering group also plan to liaise with community groups who

have expressed an interest in running a Diamond Jubilee event, set in the Old Hall Gardens, the Physic Garden, Holy Cross Church, and in Church Street.

Coun Cox was asked to investigate what was involved in applying for a road closure notice for the day.

## SLOW DOWN! Aberthyn gets road safety make-over

THE village of Aberthyn is to get a raft of safety measures - all designed to slow down traffic.

A few months ago a speed test in the village showed that a high number of cars were travelling at speeds of up to 37mph in the 30mph zone.

The matter was raised at Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council, where there were calls for action, and as a result council officers have accepted

the need. The news was relayed back to councillors last week by Coun Geoff Cox. As the cabinet member at the Vale Council for visible services, the matter falls within his brief.

He told fellow town councillors that there will be extra measures at both ends of the village.

He said: "It is felt that drivers coming from Pontyclun react slowly to the 30mph limit, so rumble strips have been identified as a priority. It is hoped to have them in place by the end of March.

"There will also be a 30mph roundel painted on the road, and an extra 30 mph sign as well."

He said that traffic coming from the Cowbridge direction would be met with a more prominent 30mph sign, and also a sign warning of the sharp bend in the road.

Inspector Mark Taylor, who was at the town council meeting, asked Coun Cox to thank the Vale Council for its prompt action.  
**PHILIP IRWIN**

## ALL DRESSED UP ...but where are these pupils going?



**ARSON**  
police  
seek  
mystery  
man

CHILDREN at Pendoylan Church in Wales Primary School were all dressed up to walk for Sport Relief - but how much money did the pupils manage to raise?  
(FULL REPORT AND MORE PICTURES ON PAGE 8).

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FOLLOWING a series of arson attacks at a property in Ogmore Vale, police are keen to identify a man seen walking past Gorwyl Flats and up to Highland Place at 10.50pm on Thursday, March 1.

He wore a distinctive, light hooded top with a large, dark number 8 on the back.

"Later that night the front door of one of the ground floor flats was set ablaze. The flat was vacant at the time of the incident. If you recognise the man, or have any further information regarding the incident, please contact Bridgend CID on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111," a spokeswoman said.

**'TREES  
CUT FOR  
OWN  
GOOD'**

TREES that have been heavily cut back in Poplar Park have been done so to preserve them according to a council officer.  
**SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 3**

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# 'TREES WERE CUT BACK FOR THEIR OWN GOOD' – SAYS VALE COUNCIL

Report by PHILIP IRWIN

**TREES that have been heavily cut back in Poplar Park have been done so to preserve them – a council officer has said.**

Last week, The GEM was contacted by a number of concerned residents who commented on the work that had been done to trees that are close to the River Thaw as it flows through the park.

Some asked if it had been done as part of the construction of the new Waitrose store.

The matter was also raised at the meeting of Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council, where Coun Marian Arnold, the chairman of the leisure and amenities committee, said that a number

of residents had approached her.

However, Phil Beaman, operational manager parks and grounds maintenance, said: The trees in Poplar Park have been pruned to reduce any risk to users of this well liked recreational area.

"When inspected, a number of large branches were found to be rotten and breaking off.

"In order to preserve the trees in the park, the major branches have been pollarded, leaving the trunk at a height of approximately three metres.

"This traditional method of cutting back growth encourages a close rounded head of young branches and will extend the life of these trees."



The pollarded trees in Poplar Park.

Some of the 'branches' that have been cut down.



## Cowbridge Town Council round-up

**AT Cowbridge Town Council on March 21, Insp Mark Taylor attended the police liaison section of the meeting and told councillors that it had been a quiet month, with no auto crime and just one burglary.**

He said there had been two assaults, one a

domestic incident, and one which took place outside a public house. There had also been two thefts of mobile phones.

He said that there had been little anti-social behaviour, and that officers had issued 16 parking tickets in the town during the month of February.

Insp Taylor also offered to meet council-

lors to discuss any arrangements that could be brought in now that the police station front office has closed.

**COMPLIMENT**  
The Mayor, Coun Andy Banks, told the Vale Council cabinet member for visible services, Coun Geoff Cox, that he had been asked by a number of local residents to congratulate the council on the resurfacing of the High Street, and on the fact that the work was done at times when the High Street was quiet.

**FOOT PATH**  
Coun Dave Morris was also keen to praise the council for its work on the foot path that runs from the town hall car park to Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

However, he said that he was concerned to see that a van had been parked on the new foot-path.

He said: "As well as the van, there was a scooter that was speeding along the path."

He asked the council to contact the council to see if bollards could be put in place to keep vehicles off the path.

**FEES**  
THE finance committee recommended that the hire fees for the town hall should be frozen, and has also recommended that fees charged at the Limes Cemetery should rise by £5. These were both agreed.

**LDP**  
The planning committee discussed the Local Development Plan (LDP) and expressed concern about the plan to build 100 houses on land either side of St Sthan Road. The concerns were concentrated on the impact it will have on existing services such as health, schools, highways and sewerage.

See website [www.keepourcowbridge-countryside.co.uk](http://www.keepourcowbridge-countryside.co.uk) for more details.  
**Catrin Thomas-Price, Cowbridge.**

## Journey time at Cowbridge Book Festival



**ON Friday May 4, photographer and writer Phil Cope will make the first book presentation of the Cowbridge Book Festival 2012.**

He will take us on a photographic and inspirational journey as he talks about his book *Holy Wells: Wales*.

Appealing to tourists, historians and photographers, this is a fascinating and beautiful book.

Phil will also open the festival photographic exhibition by two well known local photographers Mike Davies and Dave Allen, who will exhibit a wide variety of photographs in the Old Hall Gallery, which will run for the month of May.

A week later, on May 11, prepare for some very different journeys, as John Harrison talks about his book *Antarctica: Forgotten Footprints*. John, a guide and lecturer on adventure cruise ships, will transport us to the Antarctic Peninsula, South Shetland Islands and the Weddell Sea: the most visited places in Antarctica.

Still on a 'chilly theme', former BBC Wales arts and media correspondent, Jon Gower, will present his thrilling new collection of short stories: *Too Cold For Snow*; a fabulous and fascinating collection of stories that range from the Taiga region of Russia to the depths of despair.

After Jon, we'll journey from Paris to Bangor, as Bill Rees recounts the trials, joys and tribulations of selling second hand books and the thrill of finding valuable first editions.

Full of quirky anecdotes, Bill's book, *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Book Runner* is sure to spark the imagination of all book-lovers.

To round off this day of journeys, the acclaimed poet Roger Garfit will present his wonderfully written memoir *The Horseman's Word*. Roger's book is not only a fascinating depiction of his life but of England too.

From his rural upbringing as a student in the Sixties, we see him as a stable boy, as an Oxford dandy meeting David Bowie and, eventually, his life inside a mental hospital.

SC



John Harrison will be speaking at the festival about his book *Antarctica: Forgotten Journeys*.

## Celebrating all things Welsh!

**Southerndown WI's March meeting did not take place on St David's Day, but that didn't stop members celebrating all things Welsh when we did meet.**

Dressing in Welsh costumes was not compulsory but several members chose to wear traditional Welsh women's outfits, while others opted for something more contemporary, choose to dress as daffodils or members of the Welsh rugby team!

Traditional Welsh music greeted members as they arrived.

The group was welcomed by Meryl, the president, who updated us on information from Federation House including information on the spring council meeting, incorporating the 'Denman Dip' and news from Sport and Leisure.

The 'Denman Dip' gives all members the opportunity to win a two day residential course at the WI's Denman College. They also considered a visit to the Welsh Quilting Centre in Lampeter for the August day trip.

The celebrations then commenced!

On tables decorated with daffodils and Welsh dragons, members were served with home made Cawl, Welsh cheeses, Welsh cakes and Bara Brith.

The entertainment included a story explaining how the dragon came to represent Wales on our flag and a recitation of Welsh rhymes - learnt several years ago in primary school - which were acted out as they would have been all those years ago.

Some members told jokes with a Welsh flavour or recited self-penned poems, and the poem 'Welsh Incident' by Robert Graves was read.

Olwyn explained the partly-gruesome origins of her Welsh name, before the evening concluded with everyone singing Welsh songs - incorporating the 'Sobsan Fach', 'Oes Gafur Eto', 'Calon Lan' and all three verses of 'Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau' resounded around the hall.

Many thanks to Val and Margaret for providing the words.

The next meeting is at 7.15pm on Thursday, April 12 in St Brides Major Church Hall, when a speaker will tell of 'Life Behind a Camera' as a TV cameraman.

## Local church in plea to help the Food bank

**A LOCAL church is helping out its nearest Food bank in the weeks leading up to Easter, by asking residents in Cowbridge and Ystradowen to leave donated food in the church.**

St Owain's Church in Ystradowen is supporting the Food bank at Pontyclun and is asking local people to leave their 'gifts on the pews in the back of the church.

The food will then be taken to Bethel Baptist Centre in Pontyclun.

A church spokeswoman said: "The Pontyclun centre distributes most of its food to families in Rhondda Cynon Taf, where the need is great.

"It is very sad that, despite the help for all in our society, many (and especially children) are hungry in our midst."

The type of food required is UHT milk, soup, sugar (500gm), pasta sauces, tinned food, jam and biscuits.

The parishoners have decided to support the foodbank for Lent, but hope to extend their help in the future.

**QUESTION...**  
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# Molly (16) sailing for gold in youth championships



Molly in action. Picture by: PAUL WYETH/RYA.

VALE sailing star Molly Frost will be laying down the gauntlet to Britain's top young sailors as she bids to land gold at the 2012 RYA Volvo Youth National Championships over the Easter break and follow in the footsteps of Welsh 2012 Team GB Olympian Hannah Mills.

A record entry of 350 of the country's best youth dinghy racers and windsurfers will converge on the Welsh waters of Pwllheli Sailing Club (north Wales) for five days between April 2-6 to do battle at what is regarded as the RYA's premier youth racing event.

Molly (16), from Cowbridge Comprehensive, finished last year's event at Hayling Island in a respectable seventh and is now looking to better this and, hopefully, one day compete at the Olympics like fellow Welsh sailor Hannah Mills, who will be representing Team GB this

summer in the 470 class, the next step up from the 420 dinghy which Frost sails.

The Cardiff Bay Yacht Club sailor showed signs of excellence throughout the week at last year's regatta; however, with a structured winter training programme she will be hoping to excel in one of the most experienced 420 fleets the Championship has seen for many years.

Molly is the crew of the 420 double handed dinghy, and has recently posted an impressive run of results, finishing her past three main regattas in the top ten.

She will be looking for a solid all-round performance, with her sights firmly set on the win for this year's event and selection for RYA Volvo Team GBR.

Molly will be up against some fierce competition from visiting nations from all over the world including competitors from as far as Bermuda, Norway, Sweden and New Zealand.

## Pupils gripped by birds of prey!



Wow, it's so heavy — even bigger than some of the infants!



RECENTLY, St Illtyd Primary School had a visit from feathered friends at the Welsh Birds of Prey

Centre, Pembrokeshire.

The birds included a Kestrel, a Harris Hawk and an Eagle Owl, and the children enjoyed listening to the handler and asking questions about birds.

"I found it disgusting when the handler told us the birds eat all their food, including the fur and bones!" commented a year-5 pupil.

Another pupil commented: "I liked learning about the owl's massive talons and super huge beak and how they use their talons as weapons."

The children from nursery to year-6, were also told about hunting techniques, habitats and threats to the birds by the handler, who demanded great behaviour from his flock.

"I found it funny how the man bossed the birds around," chuckled one young man, "and I liked how the birds responded to the trainer's instructions."

Some children also held the Eagle Owl which they really enjoyed. One child commented: "It was very heavy and very big — it was even bigger than some of the infants!"

All the children enjoyed the experience with the birds or prey and would like to thank their handler and the Welsh Bird of Prey Centre for coming to the school.

ST

# Vale coast will welcome new test camp sites

REPORT by  
TIM  
CHAPMAN

SIX trial camping sites are likely to be given the green light along the Glamorgan Heritage Coast this summer.

The sites will only be for tents, not caravans, and are an opportunity for landowners to see whether they would like to run them in the future on a long-term basis.

In the long term, they could become a vital part of the Vale's tourism strategy.

Phil Chappell, the principal rural regeneration officer for the Vale Council, said: "We are supporting up to six sites across the Glamorgan Heritage Coast area this summer."

"Potential sites have already been chosen for further development. This is a trial using the '28-day rule' to give landowners an opportunity to see if this can work and what economic benefits it can bring to an area before they

potentially decide to go full time, or apply for planning permission."

Mr Chappell explained that this summer happened to be a particularly appropriate time to launch the scheme. "The National Eisteddfod at Llandow is a mutually beneficial coincidence, but the project has not been developed specifically with the Eisteddfod in mind."

However, The GEM understands that all six sites would be open for the week when thousands of people converge on the Vale for Wales' premier cultural event.

The National Eisteddfod runs this year from August 4 to August 11, and with estimates of the number of visitors varying from 150,000

people to 200,000, any extra overnight places for people to stay will be welcomed.

The project is being developed by the Creative Rural Communities Local Action Group.

Rebecca Hayes, the project development officer with Creative Rural Communities, emphasised that the group were in the early stages of the project and that it would give local landowners that chance to dip their toes in the water to see whether it was something they would like to do in the long term.

There has been a problem with unauthorised camping along the Glamorgan Heritage Coast — notably at Llantwit Major beach where bye-laws were introduced by the Vale Council to prevent illegal camping.

Llantwit residents complained of fires being lit on the meadow, handrails being ripped down for fire wood and damage to local toilets.

It is hoped that the introduction of new camp sites will reduce incidents of illegal camping.

A number of landowners have visited camping sites on the Gower to get information and advice from them as to what is involved.

The Creative Rural Communities group is working closely with the Vale Council's planning and licensing department on the project.

## Ideas swap on value for money

MARCH has been an inspiring month for Y Bont Faen WI as we joined members of our Federation for Women's International Day and learnt about women across the world who are not as fortunate as ourselves.

We also attended a 'Give and Take' session run by Federation where we were able to swap ideas on how to give 'best value for money' for our members.

Our social visit was a trip to the New Theatre to see *Birds of a Feather*. Our speaker was Anna Marie Merlini who inspired us by demonstrating how to make a simple but effective basket arrangement with tulips. One lucky member won the resulting arrangement and another member won the left-over flowers for a 'do-it-yourself' arrangement.

Margaret Price who volunteered to perform a 'mirror-image' arrangement, took her well-executed arrangement home with her.

This was followed by our business meeting and social time, where homemade cake and biscuits were on offer.

We have no social in April due to Easter holidays, but will be taking a tour of Nash Lighthouse on May 3, followed by refreshments at a local hostel-

ry. Our speaker in April is Jane Breeze — 'Stress Management/Be Happy'. Non-members are very welcome to come along on.

The meeting is being held on April 19 at 8pm at the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge. The cost is only £1, which includes light refreshments and a raffle.

JJ

## DARTS, TAPESTRY, AND A VISIT TO A STATELY HOME

LLANBLETHIAN WI's darts team competed in the Federation darts tournament at Llanharry, winning two games, and one of their number, Ann Miller, won the prize for scoring the highest number of points.

The subject for the

March meeting was 'The Bayeux Tapestry'. The speaker, Mrs Sally Mabey, was very well informed about this famous piece of needlework and with the aid of very clear slides, was able to explain the characters and historic incidents depicted thereon.

Three members attended the International Women's Day event at Porthcawl.

The main speaker, Mrs Jennifer Twelvetrees of 'Women 4 Resources' spoke about women of Wales and Africa working together to improve the lives of African women.

Another speaker, Mrs Angela Gorman of 'Life for African Mothers', told how two drugs, costing just 50p and 15p each respectively, made giving birth very much

safer for women in sub-Saharan Africa, each recipient needing just three tablets each to prevent them bleeding to death.

In mid-March, 17 members visited Insole Court in Llandaff, where a member of 'Friends of Insole Court' spoke of the history of the house and the family who built it and lived there in Victorian times.

They were shown a video of the attractive garden in all seasons of the year and then taken on a tour of the ground floor.

The upper floor is not at present in use. After leaving Insole Court, they went to the Cophorne Hotel for afternoon tea.

Llanblethian village is looking very cheerful at present, with spring flowers in bloom. Many of these are from bulbs won in a competition set many years ago by a Dutch bulb company.

Llanblethian WI members submitted plan showing how the bulbs would enhance the village and were lucky enough to be among the winners.

Unfortunately, the tulips did not survive as well as the daffodils and hyacinths.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN

& ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "I'nywydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303



## Life in the media!

THIS was the theme of an extremely interesting talk by BBC Wales presenter Lucy Owen, which took place in the restored St Canna's vestry on March 22.

To a packed audience, Lucy told how nervous she had been at her first interview to become a newsreader and TV interviewer. When we see on our screens what a true professional she has become, it is difficult to believe!

Following her talk in her experiences in the media, Lucy had time to pose for photos and autographs. Many of her former Llangan neighbours and others from other villages joined in a vote of thanks.

## Vestry meeting

THE meeting which took place at Saron Vestry Club last

Wednesday was well attended.

The next meeting will take place on April 4 at 7pm, when the ladies will endeavour to show their prowess in an Easter bonnet competition. New members are welcome.

**Cymanfa Ganu** ON a beautiful evening, residents from local villages and further afield came to Saron Chapel on Sunday, March 25 for the Cymanfa Ganu, which was held to help raise funds for the forthcoming National Eisteddfod at Llandow.

Cor Meibion y Machlud, conducted by Eric Dafydd, with accompanist Carol Phillips, had a superb harp soloist, Megan Morris, and provided a lovely evening bringing back memories with 'Calon Lan' and 'Cwm Rhondda', and the audience joined in the singing.





Children performing in *Pirates of the Curry Bean*.

## End of term for Stagecoach

STAGECOACH Theatre Arts are celebrating their end-of-term by producing five performances in four days, with a total of 289 children performing!

Principal Rob Reynolds said: "We are so proud of all the children for

their wonderful work and progress this term, culminating in memorable performances of the musical *Pirates of the Curry Bean*.

"Alongside the performances, 139 of the children chose to take new 'Performance Arts Awards' and two examiners attended the shows to

award the qualification."

Plans are well under way for next term's weekly classes, along with LAMDA exams and performances planned at St David's Hall and the Wales Millennium Centre.

## Mother's urgent plea to the Vale Council to save vital play groups

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

A mother says her son is "devastated" that the 'Open Access' playgroup he has been attending at a local school is being cut.

Clare Tyne told The GEM that five-year-old Keiran "loved" his Saturday mornings at Barry Island School.

"Every Saturday, he attends the Open Access sessions from 10.30am to 12.15pm.

"The children love them. They play sports and do creative activities like making things.

"One week, the supervisors took them on a trip to Bristol Zoo. It was very exciting for him and he couldn't stop talking about it.

"He felt quite grown up going on a trip for the day."

Clare said that Open Access was a great help for parents during the summer holidays when it ran from 10am to 12 noon and 2pm until 4pm.

"Six weeks is a long time for children and it gave them somewhere to go and something to do.

"Open Access caters for children aged from five to 14, and also helped provide respite for parents with severely disabled children.

Clare added: "One disabled youngster

who has attended the sessions with Keiran just loved running about.

"My four-year-old son, Owen, was looking forward to joining his brother in November, but we understand that the last session will take place this Saturday, March 31."

Clare understands that there may be other Open Access locations across the Vale in danger.

She said: "It is a safe environment and better than children walking the streets.

"I'd like the Vale Council to have a rethink, and hope Open Access can be saved."

Dave Knevet, the operational manager for leisure and tourism at the Vale Council, said Open Access schemes would return in the future.

He told The GEM: "Unfortunately funding for play opportunities throughout Wales is under great pressure at the present time due to changes in a Welsh Government grant.

"Play schemes that have operated successfully in the Vale are under review at the present time, whilst effort is being made to secure long-term future funding in discussions with our partners."

Mr Knevet added: "It is great to hear the difference open access

play schemes are making to individuals, and every effort is being made to ensure that they will re-appear in the future."



Clare Tyne with sons Owen (aged 4) and Keiran (5) whose last visit to Open Access will be this Saturday.

## Art of the monologue

MERTHYR MAWR WI NEWS

**PRESIDENT Margaret Batten opened the March meeting and welcomed our speaker for the evening, Pamela Robson, whose topic was 'Monologues and Merriment'.**

Monologues used to be very popular, especially amongst artists like Joyce Grenfell, Stanley Holloway and Noel Coward. Although not fashionable today, this form of entertainment was clever and very funny and showed a superb use of words and language.

She recited and sang examples of songs and monologues, ending up with an old favourite, Gracie Fields. Her talk brought back many memories for us.

Several members went on the theatre trip to the Millennium Centre to see *Lord of the Dance*, a masterly orchestrated combination of precision dancing, lighting and pyrotechnics, and we all thoroughly enjoyed and admired the speed and liveliness of the dancing.

ing.

In March, we held our link meeting, when members from Colwinston, Southerndown and Penllyn WIs joined us for the meeting.

In the first half, we were entertained by Glenda Clwyd, who talked about her life as a harpist and demonstrated the versatility of the instrument by selecting a wide range of music, ranging from *The Flower Duet* to Welsh folk music.

Following a break for refreshments, we enjoyed a lively game of 'Beetle', which Niki Hughes organised and compered. Most of us had not played this game since our childhood but it certainly brought out our competitive streak.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 4, at Corntown Community Hall, when the topic will be the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic.

Fiona Cater

## 'Forget houses, town needs more car park spaces'

**MORE houses in Cowbridge? - No, No, No! Cowbridge needs more houses like a hole in the head!**

Now parking - that is not only needed, but is essential - if the town is to survive commercially and socially.

At the moment, without any more development, Cowbridge is beginning to lose trade and business, because of the parking problem.

Do we want boarded-up shops and other commercial enterprises going out of business or moving to another area?

A few facts to be considered; I know of ladies who came from Cardiff to buy clothes for a wedding, having taken a long time, looking in vain, for a parking space, who went instead to McArthur Glen Outlet in Bridgend.

I have also been told that many shoppers from the west of the town, now shop in Llantwit Major, where parking is easier.

That is the problem, now what are the possible solutions?

## PUPILS BRING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY TO LIFE

**PRIMARY school children in the Vale helped bring the hidden histories of Tinkinswood burial chamber to life last week when they recreated an ancient ritual ceremony through live performance.**

The Cadw-funded 'Make and Break' project aims to give school pupils the chance to learn about the prehistoric practices of the Neolithic period in a fun and interactive way.

The children, aged between 10 and 11 from St Nicholas Primary School, began their research with a trip to the National Museum Wales to explore what life was like for Neolithic people around 6,000 years ago, before visiting the iconic site. Children from Peterson-Super-Ely Primary School will give their performance next Friday (March 30).

Through a series of workshops at the schools and on site, the children created their own clay pots to reflect on the artifacts found at Tinkinswood, as well as learning how to make sounds like their ancestors using voices, instruments and music technology combined with music and drama in preparation for their performance.



ABOVE: Kelsey Jenkins (9) and Khalid Woodland (10) from St Nicholas.

Over 60 children in total will have taken part in the performances, which sees them seal a wish by breaking their handmade pots and adding to a heap of fragments, to recreate the historic Neolithic ritual ceremony where people deliberately broke and gave away their most treasured possessions.

Dr Ffion Reynolds, C o m m u n i t y Archaeologist for Cadw, said: "The 'Make and Break' project has captured the imaginations of children through a hands-on approach to learning. They have a chance to learn outdoors and reflect on the notion of value in the modern world. It's great to see them so engaged in their local history while helping bring the story of this fascinating site to life for the whole community to enjoy."

Other partners in the project include the Council for British Archaeology, Cerdorra, Archaeology and Religion and the National Museum Wales.

Peterson-Super-Ely Primary School's performance will take place at 2.30pm tomorrow (Friday, March 30).

**COMMUNITY NEWS**  
**LLANBETHERY & LLANCARFAN**  
 Your community correspondents are  
**Sam & Patsie Smith on**  
**(01446) 751448**

**OBITUARY Ruth Walls,** (1916-2012)

**WE sadly have to report the death of Ken Walls' dear wife, Ruth, on March 22, and it is true to say that she will be very much missed, not only by her family, but by her many friends, both in Llanbethery and beyond.**

Ruth was brought up in Croydon and on leaving school became a secretary with ICI in London. After 10 years, she resigned to give birth to her first child in July 1944.

By this time, her husband Ken was a prisoner of war in Germany, having been captured in Normandy on D Day the previous month.

Due to Ken's job, it was necessary for her to move from Croydon, firstly to Somerset, then to Yorkshire, then Hereford and finally to the Cardiff area.

Ruth was an accomplished amateur artist and made many friends in the Cowbridge and Llantwit Major art clubs.

She also enjoyed the friendship of the WI and local National Trust

members. Walking was another of her activities, and when 61 years of age she (with Ken) walked the coast to coast path across the North of England, a distance of 190 miles.

When the Walls came to Llanbethery in 1976, their intention was to stay only for four years but they experienced such a happy and peaceful time in the village, that they lived there for 36 years, half their married life.

The funeral service will be at Coychurch Crematorium on Thursday, April 5, at 2.15pm.

Family flowers only, but donations in lieu may be sent to the RNLI, c/o W James & Son, Fommon, Rhosce, CF62 3BJ.

**Lent lunches**  
**THE final Lent lunch is being held today, Thursday, March 29, in Llancafarn Village Hall, prepared this time by the Llancafarn ladies.**

The lunch starts at 12 noon and runs until 2pm, and all proceeds will go to charity. Payment, £4, at the door.

A big thank you to the ladies of Penmark and Llantrithyd for their contributions over the last two weeks.



# MAENDY'S ROAD TO WALES FINALS OF YFC PANTO COMPETITION

THE pantomime phenomenon that has been the focal point for Maendy YFC in recent months has been a real achievement for the club.

Preparation for the annual YFC stage competition kicked off in December with the unveiling of a home-written script by Richard Harris entitled 'A Hot Pot of Ahji-Bhaji', inviting you to be swept away on a magical carpet ride to



ABOVE: The final pose.

enjoy the vibrant sights and sounds of this original recipe.

It was beautifully prepared by Richard Western and served by

the cast members ranging from ages 12 to 26.

So the performances commenced; first stop was February 16, which saw an extremely well supported dress rehearsal at Barry Memorial Hall. A huge thank you to the Glamorgan Hunt for warming up the crowd and providing their support on a memorable night at the Memorial Hall.

The next stop was The Princess Royal Theatre in Port Talbot, which saw the seven YFC clubs in Glamorgan go head to head for the opportunity to represent the county at the Wales finals.

Three nights of highly entertaining scenes full of dames, ugly sisters and villains provided a successful week-

end, making the judge's decision a difficult one.

Maendy's efforts were rewarded in the form of three trophies: Ieuan Rosser winning best actor; the award for best technical production and, most importantly, the winning shield for the best performance.

Congratulations to everyone who was involved, both on and off the stage, it really was a team effort!

The journey did not stop there though! The cast and entourage took the show on the road, travelling to Llandudno to challenge our counterparts from across Wales. Venue Cymru hosted this year's Wales competition on March 10 and 11, providing a fantastic platform and

facilities to act upon.

As always at Wales level, the standard was extremely high and the audience enjoyed some breathtaking performances.

Judge Mike Kaiser commented on how creative and original the script was, as well as the imaginatively set stage and scenery, all of which complemented the performance of a cast that any amateur dramatic society would be extremely proud of, let alone a Young Farmers Club.

The results were out, Maendy achieved best technical award; Ieuan Rosser was nominated for most promising actor, while Christina Thomas scooped the most promising actress award.

There were just two points between first and second place, with Maendy YFC finishing runners-up to a deserving Builth Wells team. Glamorgan would like to wish all the best to Builth at the national finals in April.

The cast were electric on stage and gave it their all, coming second to the reigning national champions is not a result to be disappointed with.

It was a fantastic team building opportunity, while raising the profile of Glamorgan Young Farmers and showcasing the talents that young people and the YFC organisation has to offer.

Look out for us on the S4C coverage 'Ffermio Ifanc O'r Venue' on the 'Catch Up' section of their website.

All performances from the Welsh Finals (seven English speaking and six Welsh speaking) will be available in full on the website shortly.

A special thank you to all the parents and supporters who travelled to Llandudno to cheer the team on and members for their exemplary behaviour and attitude over the weekend.

For more information about Maendy YFC please visit [www.maendy.btck.co.uk](http://www.maendy.btck.co.uk).

HANNAH LEWIS

RIGHT: Cast members.



ABOVE: Members of the ensemble.



Mark Edwards (Vizier's Henchman), Tom Rees (Chief Vizier) and Harry Thomas (Vizier's Henchman).



Ieuan Rosser (club chairman) as Dama Betty Bhuna.



Heather Jarvis as Good Fairy Harmonia, and Christina Thomas as Bad Fairy Draconia.



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# Who wants to build what, and where?

Messrs Brian and Ian Mead - **Trem y Glyn, 9 Windmill Lane, Cowbridge** - Variation of conditions 1 and 3 of approved planning application 2009/011006/PUL to reduce height of balcony side screens and remove obscure glazing requirement. Mrs Pauline Hodgkiss - **12 Kestrel Way, Penarth** - Porch to front. Harris Pye Ltd - **Units 5 and 6, Sutton Road, Llandow** - Construction of a storage area for gases and liquids. The structure will be an area of concrete impermeable handstanding secured by steel fencing enclosures with an area for storage of oil and lubricant which will have corrugated steel sides and roof. Mr Philip Javes - **6 Ivy-Ced, Wenvoe** - Installation of photovoltaic solar panels on rear (south) facing roof. Mr Patrick Carroll - **Dock Offices, Subway Road, Barry Docks** - Replacement of rain water goods. Property Section, Vale of Glamorgan Council - **Alexandra Gardens Community Centre, Alexandra Crescent, Barry** - Demolition of Community Centre. Mr Chris Davey - **160 Windsor Road, Penarth** - Change of use of existing three storey plus basement end of terrace house into four self contained flats and associated works. Mr Julian Rowley - **8 Iwer Street, Barry** - Single storey rear extension and loft conversion with dormer. Mr and Mrs Evans - **4 Badgers Brook Rise, Ystradowen** - Single storey orangery. Mr Graham Bailey -

**Brooklyn, Llanbithian** - Demolition of stone wall adjacent to highway in association with approved planning application 2011/00935/PUL. Mr Roger Hall - **23 Uppercliff Drive, Penarth** - Two storey extension, ground floor living room, first floor kitchen and bedroom. Mr W Khan - **4 Barry Road, Barry** - Proposed change of use from tattoo parlour (vacant) to two bedroom flat on ground floor. Mr Jon Maguire - **Nationwide Building Society, 21 Windsor Road, Penarth** - Replace existing ATM with new model and associated signage. Western Power Distribution - **Stoney Bank Farm, Wick** - Proposed 11kv overhead line diversion. Western Power Distribution - **Lougher Place, St Athan** - Proposed 11kv overhead line diversion. Mr and Mrs Wilcox - **75 Westbourne Road, Penarth** - Proposed three storey extension to rear of property. Windsor Bowling Club, **Robinswood Crescent, Penarth** - Installation of water storage tank with submersible electrical pump and associated works to serve existing sprinkler system for watering of bowling greens. Tank to be installed on existing concrete base. Dr R C Staudley - **15 Hickman Road, Penarth** - 1. Rebuilding of roof and supporting walls to an annex to replace unstable structure; 2. Construction of a new extension to that existing annex. Miss Lucy Davies -

**Piccadilly, Hastings Avenue, Penarth** - Single storey extension to rear of property. Mrs Pauline Rowland - **Cogan Nursery School, Coganore Street, Cogan** - Installation of a timber canopy to school main entrance and the installation of roller shutters to create storage area. Anne Bowsher - **Cogan Primary School, Pill Street, Cogan** - Installation of ball catcher fence. Mr Patrick Carol - **Court Road Depot, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Barry Road, Barry** - Demolition of 5 no. single storey detached buildings once used as stores. Mr Stephen Danner - **Kninkin, St Hilary** - Proposed alterations and extensions to existing cottage and detached car port wood store and workshop/garden store. Mr Allen Parkhouse - **8 St David's Crescent, Beggar's Pound, St Athan** - Single storey large extension. Mrs Pepper - **1 Maillards Haven, Penarth** - Fell Sycamore tree. Mr Giovanni Zecchi - **The Promenade Cafe, The Promenade, Barry Island, Barry** - The proposal is to remove two columns from the kiosk to open up the elevation onto the promenade. Also to remove three air vents and install four windows on the rear elevations overlooking Whitmore Bay, improving both the outlook from the unit and the view back from the beach itself. Centrium Chiropractic Clinic - **32 Cardiff Road, Dinas Powys** - Change of use from B1 office to D1 non-residential institution (chiropractic health care clinic).

Mr Raymond Chan and Ms Lindsay Gibben - **Cusop, 72 Broadway, Cowbridge** - Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of new single storey extension. Existing window on Broadway elevation to be enlarged, new window opening at first floor level to be created. Construction of new dormer window at rear. Erection of 800mm high railings atop existing 1m stone wall at rear (Love Lane facing). Mr Simon Kilshaw - **10 Dryden Terrace, Penarth** - Single storey extension to side and rear, two storey to rear. Mr David Park - **22 Adenfield Way, Rhosne** - Single storey rear extension and garage. Mr C Sim - **1 The Drive, Windyridge, Dinas Powys** - Reduce new growth of 1 maple and 1 beech. Mariners Heights Ltd - **Mariners Heights, Paget Place, Penarth** - Works to trees. Mr Nigel Morgan - **2 Southglade, Sully** - Extension to existing garage and construction of first floor extension over. Topstak - **Unit 42-42A, Vale Business Park, Llandow, Cowbridge** - New warehouse and improvements to the frontage and internal showroom of the existing Unit 42. Mr David Thomson - **Little Hamston Farm, Dyffryn** - Proposed change of use from agricultural land to equestrian management arena. R S Bird Ltd - **R S Bird Ltd, Cowbridge** - Revised layout for proposed non food retail building (approximately

628m² gross external area) to avoid Welsh Water sewer easement. Minor revision to planning permission 2011/00423/PUL. Weaver Partnership - **7 Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major** - Two storey rear extension to provide extended kitchen and shower room downstairs and new bedroom and ensuite upstairs. Renewal of a p l i c a t i o n 2004/01203/PUL. Mr Sam Pinco - **Land adjacent to 77 Ronilly Park Road, Barry** - Proposed construction of 3 no. detached dwellings with access, on site parking and amenity facilities. Architect Fitz - **7 Broad Street, Barry** - Use of outbuilding as separate residential accommodation. Mr Gwyn Thomas - **Duffryn Bach Farm, Pendoylan** - Proposed agricultural building with an equine veterinary facility, car parking and turning area. Mr John Owen - **22 Wick Road, Ewenny** - Rear first floor extension and conservatory to side elevation. Pier 64 Wine Bar and Steakhouse - **Penarth Portway/Marina, Penarth** - Variation of condition 12 of 2010/01033/PUL to allow use of the balcony area by customers until 11pm. Carter Lauren Construction Ltd - **Bevan House, Penarth Road, Cardiff** - Single storey office extension. Ortel Services - **21 Victoria Road, Penarth** - Works to trees. Mrs Gaynor M Taylor - **72 Porth y Castell, Barry** - Remove four Leylandii trees. Mr W Wilding - **5 Castlewood Cottages,**

**Highwalls Road, Dinas Powys** - Fell and remove a cherry tree. Mrs Stoner - **5 Clive Place, Penarth** - Reducapollard Willow. Mr and Mrs Hewitson - **17 Cambourne Close, Barry** - Rear conservatory. Mr D Ketley - **23 Mines Bluffs, Llantwit Major** - Single storey side extension. Peterston Super Ely Community Council - **St Peters Churchyard, Peterston Super Ely** - Fell Cypress. Mr David Gully - **1 Westbourne Court, Barry** - Proposed side extension and increase in eaves level on rear elevation. Premier Construction (Wales) Ltd - **Highfields Close, Barry** - Renovation of six two-bedroom apartments in a two-storey block with photovoltaic panels on roof in the ground of Highfields Close, Barry. Mr Stephen Hopwood - **18 Monmouth Way, Boverton, Llantwit Major** - Attached garage and kitchen extension. Mr Gareth Wiltshire - **5 Fford Cwm Cidi, Barry** - Single storey kitchen extension. Mr Simon Elias - **Penarth Lawn Tennis Club, Rectory Road, Penarth** - Demolition of poor quality lean-to store with monopitch roof. Reconstruction of new lean-to store with monopitch roof. Removal of existing roof covering and re-roofing. Removal of existing windows, doors and screens and replacement. Provision of new boundary fencing. Mr Roger Lewis - **2 The Elms, Peterston-super-Ely Cottages,**

the collapsed bank abutting Grosedace Road and construction of new retaining walls, with a free draining gravel base to park a car. Mrs Lynch - **10 Madoc Close, Dinas Powys** - Lightly crown raise to 4m removing lowest whorl of branches and stabs. Shorten lower lateral branches extending to south over boundary fence and walkway by 3-4m and prune adjacent branches to re-balance crown of one oak tree located in front garden. Mr James Johnston - **11 Fentygryd Road, Rhosne** - Change of use from office space to retail space, dog grooming salon and sale of pet related products. Mr Sarah Brooks - **41 Boverton Brook, Boverton** - Remove garage and construction of two storey side extension and proposed single storey store to other side elevation. Ms Debbie Baker - **Units 14 and 17, Llandough Trading Estate, Llandough** - Change of use from industrial units to children's play centre. Mr Simon Easterby - **Afryn Farm (Arfryn), Princes Hill, Cowbridge** - Demolition of the existing dwelling and garage, replaced by the erection of a single detached dwelling. V J Thomas and Son - **Pancross Farm, Lluncarfan, Barry** - Extension of two cattle accommodation buildings. Mr Roger Thomas - **St Nicholas House, 25 Plas Glen Rosa, Penarth** - The retention of a 6' high wooden fence around the property boundary.



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**LLANTWIT MAJOR - £249,950**

Established three bedroom detached house with attached garage situated within walking distance of the town comprising Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge with French doors to rear, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, En-suite to master bedroom, Family Bathroom. Gas central heating. Driveway and garden to front and rear. Freehold. Ref 6380

**LLANTWIT MAJOR - £235,000**

Modern three bedroom detached bungalow and detached garage situated in a sought after area comprising Hallway, Lounge/Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Bathroom and separate WC. Gas central heating and certain windows UPVC double glazed. Driveway and garden to front and rear. No onward chain. Freehold. Ref 6370

**LLANTWIT MAJOR - £240,000**

Three bedroom detached house with attached garage situated in a sought after area. Hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room with French doors to rear, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility Room, Bathroom. Certain doors and windows are UPVC double glazed. Gas central heating. Driveway and established garden to front and rear. No onward chain. Freehold. Ref 6400

**LLANTWIT MAJOR - £179,950**

Established modernised three bedroom semi-detached house and garage comprising Porch, Hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Modern refurbished fitted Kitchen, Dining Room, Modern Bathroom. Double glazed windows and doors. Gas central heating. Driveway and garden to front and rear. Ref 6410

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**LLANTWIT MAJOR - £265,000**

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# GEM sport

## Cowbridge RFC run out winners as the chase for promotion starts to hot up

**COWBRIDGE** welcomed Tonna to the Athletic Field last Saturday and in glorious sunshine ran out worthy winners by 38-17.

Within 3 minutes of the start Cowbridge nearly scored following a mazy run from full back Matt Pound, but he was pulled back for foot in touch.

Cowbridge went into their shell as outside half Carwyn Morgan's two penalties were cancelled out by two from the Tonna full back.

But 25 minutes in, from a scrum, scrum half Dewi Edwards got the ball away to Morgan who beat two men and put in a delightful kick ahead that pounced perfectly

for flying wing Liam Rowland to gather and sprint over for an unconverted try.

Edwards put in the tackle of the half to earn a penalty, but the next score went to Tonna with a third penalty.

Just before half time a charge up the wing by hooker Luke Adams released wing Matt Logsdon but again he was deemed to have put a foot in touch. Half time produced the unsatisfying score of 11-9.

With Cowbridge on top in the scrum and doing well in the line-out the score-line produced a stern talking to the players by the coaches, Rhys and Alyn - and it worked. In the opening 5 minutes from a pick up

from the base of the scrum No 8 and captain Ross Llewellyn released scrum half Edwards and his excellent pass found full back Pound coming up at pace.

He went outside then back inside to score a try from 35 metres out. Minutes later Pound put a kick across field, wing Logsdon chased and caught his opposite number.

Support arrived and the ball was spun out to Morgan who put flanker Luke Boys through a gap to score. Morgan added the extras.

Then just before the mid point Tonna launched several attacks and Pound was adjudged to have kicked out at an opponent and was sent to

the touchline for 10 minutes.

Minutes later from what seemed a harsh penalty for holding on in the tackle Tonna got their fourth penalty.

Cowbridge made changes when the sin binning came to an end with Rhys Price coming on at hooker, and Boys going to centre.

With 15 minutes left great work by Edwards as he managed to steal Tonna's ball from the base of the scrum. Ross Llewellyn took it on, the ball was recycled and Morgan dummied his way through to the line for a try he converted.

Second row Alex Lewis came on for Carwyn Davies and on the 30 minute mark Tonna ran a penalty 10 metres out and worked their right wing over in the corner.

Hooker Adams, who had made several bullocking runs took a knock and Alun John replaced him.

It took a great tackle from wing Rowlands to stop a break out by Tonna and then a further penalty from Morgan eased the score out.

With minutes remaining Alex Lewis crashed over near the corner following good work by wing Logsdon

and No 8 Llewellyn for a final score of 38-17.

An important win with a vital bonus point secured. Cowbridge took a while to get going but put in a strong second half to run out winners.

There are tough games ahead and the team can't afford to be off the pace for a half as they were here.

This Saturday

Cowbridge travel to South Wales Police, kick off 2:30; the X2 runs at quarter to and quarter past the hour and your support would be much appreciated.

Then on April 7 we welcome Cefn Cribbwr, two must win games if we are to keep in contention near the top.

It has been many a long year since we have been within sight of the top of the table so these are exciting times - come and be a part of it!

RV/RK



**Cowbridge under-15 squad:** (Left to right, from top) Joe Gaughan, Harry Stubbington, Tom Trotman, Mattie Roberts, Dec Thomas, David Humphreys, George Griffiths, Mike Milani, Alex Greaves, Sean Rowland.

## Basketballers are just pipped in final

**RECENTLY** the season ended for the Cardiff and Vale Basketball Association leagues.

A day of finals was played out with the best two teams for each age group facing off in 'one winner takes all' game.

Following a successful regular season campaign the Cowbridge under-15 side had made their way to the final to find themselves facing off against Barry Boys.

Cowbridge was looking to cement its status as a dominant team having won the season before. Barry however was looking to avenge a loss in the finals the prior year.

A tight affair throughout, it was unsurprising

that the game came down to the wire. Both teams started slowly, struggling to find the right shots early on.

Cowbridge took the first quarter with the slimmest of leads, 9-7.

The lead was short lived, however, as foul trouble meant Cowbridge need to change its player rotation.

The game warmed up in the second quarter, which proved to be the highest scoring. Barry managed to even the score to send it into the break a tied game, 25 all.

To begin the third, Cowbridge started to push the pace and exploit an ill advised full court press by Barry.

The lead reached as much as 7, but any advantage was found to be short lived.

Barry's star player (No 6, Wilson) started to figure out the Cowbridge defence and repeatedly drove into the lane, either scoring or getting to the line.

As an almost one man team, he kept his team in it. The small lead Cowbridge built in the third quickly evaporated and the fourth quarter became a tense match of back and forth.

The early long shots that dropped for Cowbridge now fell just short and as Barry dropped their full court press, Cowbridge's weakness of executing in the half court came back to haunt them.

Down 45-39, Barry went to work, 10 unanswered points were scored and they eventually took a strong 4 point lead (49-45) with only one minute remaining.

Cowbridge forward Tom Trotman managed to pull back two more points, but Barry's Wilson once again found his way to the basket.

He missed the shot and a close foul was given. At the line Wilson put his team ahead 51-47. A quick Cowbridge basket and a tactical foul gave them their final chance.

Eight seconds to tie the game and force overtime; Harry Stubbington squared up behind the three point arc and launched, but the shot fell short and Barry held on to win, 52-49.

A strong season finished with disappointment then as Cowbridge's successful Key Stage 3 team from 2011 fell just short of repeating that success in their first Key Stage 4 campaign.

The question that must now be asked is can Cowbridge overcome their shortcomings, develop the half court game and cohesive teamwork needed and mature into a tight knit squad defined by an intense will to do what it takes to win?

LG

## Return to the top flight for local squash team?

**RECENT** results in the South Wales Squash Leagues (Division 2 east) have seen the possibility of promotion back to Division 1 east for the Cowbridge Bar 44 A team with a superb 4-1 home win over second-placed promotion rivals St Mellons B.

This followed a very narrow reverse away at fourth placed Cardiff Vets. This leaves "winnable" fixtures

away at Old Penarthians A and bottom two teams Newport E and Llantrisant B.

Nick Guard and his team turned over a multi-gym honed team from St Mellons with a resounding 4-1 win to put them within 13 points of a promotion slot with three matches to play.

This potentially could have been a 5-0 maximum but for No 5 Niall Sloan picking up a calf strain at the end of the first game against Dave Godfrey. Despite this Sloan battled through the match but eventually

going down 1-3 (taking the second rubber 11-9).

Earlier Jon Bisson (no 2) put together a wonderfully energetic performance to grind down Brett James 3-0 (11-8, 11-8, 11-8). At No 3 Garfield Leask went into an early lead (11-6 in the first) before dropping the next two games (7-11, 11-13) before recovering to win a gruelling five setter.

Fitness fanatic St Mellons no 1 John Blackmore could not live with the sheer class of Nick Guard's squash and soon found himself on the end of a 3-0 (11-8, 11-8, 11-8) result from the Cowbridge Bar 44 talisman.

And so, it was left to the endeavour of No 4 Simon Payne to put the icing on the cake - this, he did but in no easy fashion, in a nip and tuck affair through 11-5, 6-11, 11-9, 9-11 to 6-10 down in the fifth to plough a series of points to his match 14-12 in the fifth. Match result 17-7. The As entertain bottom of the table Llantrisant B this week looking for the points to get them ever closer to that promotion place.

'A team 44' have a longer programme than the Bs and Cs - a full round will be reported at season end.

Membership details may be obtained from Dave Garnham (07721 533443) or any other information from russ.watts@btopen-world.com

RUSS WATTS

## THE UNDER-11s WIN OUT IN TIGHT TUSSLE WITH CRICC

**ON** a lovely sunny Sunday morning, Cowbridge under-11s made the journey into Cardiff to play the return fixture against CRICC at the Cardiff High School Old Boys Ground.

With two well organised teams and a firm dry pitch the match was played in a good spirit with excellent team work and skills from both sides.

In the opening five minutes both teams tried to spread the ball wide but the well organised defences were dominant. Following a sustained period camped in their own half CRICC tried a clever blind side move which was well marshalled by Iestyn Fenn.

Fenn intercepted the inside pass and off-loaded quickly to Lewis Hawke. Hawke still had a fair amount of work to do but with new found pace, out-sprinted the cover defence to open the scoring in the corner.

CRICC replied quickly with good interplay between backs and forwards getting the ball deep into the Cowbridge half. An infringement at the breakdown resulted in a penalty for CRICC in the Cowbridge 25. The CRICC forwards took a quick tap and rum-

bled over to level the score.

CRICC continued to attack for the remainder of the first half but were unable to make any inroads into a well organised Cowbridge defence led by Barney Langton Cryer. The defensive work by the whole team was excellent with hard tackling, good ruck work and clearing kicks from Evan Thomas. Half time score: CRICC 5 - Cowbridge 5.

CRICC started off the second half as they had left the first. The Cowbridge defence again held firm, however, following several phases of good inter-play between the backs and forwards CRICC scored a well-deserved try to take the lead.

The Cowbridge team responded well, and from the restart were able to work their way down field into the CRICC half. The interplay between the backs and forward was excellent.

Following a period of sustained pressure in the CRICC 25, Cowbridge were awarded a penalty. A quick tap by Iwan Williams and quick ball through the hands led to a Ben Jones try.

Following the kick-off Cowbridge continued to put pressure on the CRICC defence and thought they had taken the lead when Ruben Williams went over following one of his trademark

runs from just inside the CRICC half.

However, Williams was denied his try as he was harshly adjudged to have illegally fended off an opponent just prior to the touch down. The resulting penalty clearance kick was taken by Ed Lewis and again Cowbridge built through various phases of play and worked their way into the CRICC half.

The CRICC defence was able to fend off numerous attacks with both Ed Lewis and Iestyn Fenn being held up over the line.

However, following some quick play from the back of the ruck, the ball again was moved out to Ben Jones, who found himself lurking in the backs to score in the corner and regain the lead for Cowbridge.

Sensing the victory was theirs, Cowbridge again attacked from the kick-off. An excellent run from Tom Humphreys set up the final try of the game for Evan Thomas. Final score: CRICC 10 - Cowbridge 20

A second game was played and Cowbridge turned out comfortable victors with a 30-5 win.

GJ

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THURSDAY, MARCH 29TH, 2012

## Green light for six 'trial' camp sites along the heritage coast

**SIX trial camping sites are likely to be given the green light along the Glamorgan heritage coast this summer.**

The sites will only be for tents, not caravans, and are an opportunity for landowners to see whether they would like to run them in the future on a long term basis, when they could become a vital part of the Vale's tourism strategy.

Phil Chappell, the principal rural regeneration officer for the Vale Council, said: "We are supporting up to six sites across the Glamorgan Heritage Coast area this summer."

"Potential sites have already been chosen for further development. This is a trial using the '28-day rule' to give landowners an opportunity to see if this can work and what economic benefits it can bring to an area before they potentially decide to go full time or apply for planning permission."

Mr Chappell explained that this summer happened to be a particularly appropriate time to launch the scheme: "The National Eisteddfod at Llandow is

**Report by TIM CHAPMAN**

a mutually-beneficial coincidence, but the project has not been developed specifically with the Eisteddfod in mind."

However, The GEM understands that all six sites would be open for the week when thousands of people converge on the Vale for Wales' premier cultural event.

The National Eisteddfod runs this year from August 4 to August 11, and with estimates of the number of visitors varying from 150,000 people to 200,000, any extra overnight places for people to stay will be welcomed.

The project is being developed by the Creative Rural Communities Local Action Group.

Rebecca Hayes, the project development officer with Creative Rural Communities, emphasised that the group were in the early stages of the project and that it would give local landowners the chance to dip their toes in the water, to see whether it was something they would like to do in the long term.

There has been a problem with unauthorised camping along the Glamorgan Heritage Coast – notably at Llantwit Major beach, where bye-laws were introduced by the Vale Council to prevent illegal camping.

Llantwit residents complained of fires being lit on the meadow, handrails being ripped down for fire wood, and damage to local toilets.

It is hoped that the introduction of new camp sites will reduce incidents of illegal camping.

A number of landowners have visited camping sites on the Gower – to get information and seek advice from them as to what is involved.

The Creative Rural Communities group is working closely with the Vale Council's planning and licensing department on the project.

## THE BEAVERS PARACHUTE IN!



St Athan Beavers pictured at the ICAT Centre. (SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 3).

## 'Come to the community fair day meeting and give us your views' – locals urged

**RESIDENTS of Llantwit Major are being invited to a 'community fair day' public meeting in the town's rugby club tonight (Thursday, March 29, 7.30pm).**

This year, Llantwit Major Community Fair Day is to be held on Saturday, June 23, but it will only be made possible by the enthusiastic involvement of local people and organisations.

Organiser Byron Evans told The GEM:

"The meeting starts at 7.30pm and we are keen to hear the views of local people as to what they would like to see."

The 'community fair day' first began two years ago and was introduced to provide a summer entertainment event in years when the bi-ennial Victorian Fair Day wasn't being held.

Two years ago, when Byron got the first summer fair off the ground, he emphasised that the idea was to reinvent the community spirit once inspired by the agricultural fairs that were held in the Vale in the past.

"One of the latest ideas proposed by someone was to have a public humiliation of 'leg waxing' for charity!" said Byron.

"So if there's someone who would like to help to organise that, we'd like them to get in touch."

The organisers plan to have a far bigger event than the one in 2010.

Byron envisages a large number of stalls for the day – at a reasonable charge because he wants a good selection.

Various activities and games are planned, including a scarecrow competition and a melon-eating contest; there will be a pentathlon with a twist, an orienteering competition and water

polo. But Byron is anxious that as many people and organisations as possible should attend tonight

with suggestions as to what they would like to see and what they could help to organise.  
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# Commons Committee praises the St Athan rehabilitation unit

**BRIGADIER Philip Napier, HQ 160(Wales) Bde recently hosted a visit by members of the Parliamentary Welsh Affairs Committee to the regional rehabilitation unit, at MoD St Athan.**

The Parliamentary Committee, consisting of MPs from across Wales, are currently looking into care of Service personnel and veterans in Wales, and also welfare issues.

A spokesperson for the RAF explained: "There are nearly a quarter of a million armed forces veterans in Wales. These men and women who have served their country with distinction, sometimes in the gravest of danger, deserve the best help that can be provided when they leave the military and return to civilian life.

"The committee is undertaking an inquiry into the support for Armed Forces veterans in Wales. This inquiry will examine cross-border co-ordination as it affects veterans and the level of co-ordination

between the Ministry of Defence, the Wales Office and the Welsh Government."

The visit to St Athan gave the MPs the opportunity to be to look at the level of care and provision that the RRU facility offers.

Chair of the committee, David T C Davies MP, said: "The enquiry is looking into the standard of care given to Armed Forces veterans and I have to say I am impressed with the facility here at St Athan, and the way that it is specifically tailored to meet the needs of Service personnel."

Mark Williams MP added: "This is a unique primary health and rehabilitation unit in Wales. The dedication of this team of staff is evident and it is good to see that they are held in such high regard by the Service personnel using this facility."

Following the tour of the unit, the committee were briefed by the army recovery capability and the personnel recovery unit (Wales) before concluding the day with a panel of Service health representatives and subject matter experts.



ABOVE: David Davies MP gets a first-hand briefing at the rehabilitation centre.

## Pupils gripped by birds of prey at Llantwit..!



WOW, it's so heavy — even bigger than some of the infants!



**RECENTLY, St Illtyd Primary School had a visit from feathered friends at the Welsh Birds of Prey Centre, Pembrokeshire.**

The birds included a Kestrel, a Harris Hawk and an Eagle owl, and the children enjoyed listening to the handler and asking questions about birds.

"I found it disgusting when the handler told us the birds eat all their food, including the fur and bones!" commented a year-5 pupil.

Another pupil commented: "I liked learning about the owl's massive talons and super huge beak and how they use their talons as weapons."

The children, from nursery to year-6, were also told about hunting

techniques, habitats and threats to the birds by the handler, who demanded great behaviour from his flock.

"I found it funny how the man bossed the birds around," chuckled one young man, "and I liked how the birds responded to the trainer's instructions."

Some children also held the Eagle Owl which they really enjoyed. One child commented:

"It was very heavy and very big — it was even bigger than some of the infants."

All the children enjoyed the experience with the birds or prey and would like to thank their handler and the Welsh Bird of Prey Centre for coming to the school. ST

## Beavers learn to assemble a parachute (and without breaking eggs!)

**ST ATHAN Beaver Scouts recently visited the International Centre for Aerospace Technology (ICAT) in Rhosneigr, one of 11 campuses at the recently-merged Cardiff and Vale College, formerly Barry College and Coleg Glan Hafren.**

The Beaver Scouts were split into three groups, had a tour of the workshop, and were allowed to go onto two small planes, a

spokesperson reported "In teams, they also took part in the 'parachute challenge', where they were given basic materials and challenged to make a parachute —

for an egg!

"Assisted by older Scouts, the Beavers launched their parachutes from the top of a staircase to see if their designs would manage to keep their precious cargo safe.

"Of the six parachutes, three managed to keep their egg intact!"

"The Beavers had a great time visiting this excellent facility. "First St Athan Beaver Scouts and leaders would like to thank Jeff Moore and his staff for welcoming them to ICAT.

"We had a cracking time!"

For information about Beaver Scouts in St Athan, Llantwit Major or Cowbridge, contact Joanne Gower on 01446 754208.

## Journey time at Cowbridge Book Festival



John Harrison will be speaking at the festival about his book *Antarctica: Forgotten Footprints*.

**ON Friday May 4, photographer and writer Phil Cope will make the first book presentation of the Cowbridge Book Festival 2012.**

He will take us on a photographic and inspirational journey as he talks about his book *Holy Wells: Wales*.

Appealing to tourists, historians and photographers, this is a fascinating and beautiful book.

Phil will also open the festival photographic exhibition by two well known local photographers, this is a fascinating and beautiful book. Phil will also open the festival photographic exhibition by two well known local photographers, this is a fascinating and beautiful book.

A week later, on May 11, prepare for some very different journeys, as John Harrison talks about his book

*Antarctica: Forgotten Footprints*. John, a guide and lecturer on adventure cruise ships, will transport us to the Antarctic Peninsula, South Shetland Islands and the Weddell Sea: the most visited places in Antarctica.

Still on a 'chilly theme', former BBC

Wales arts and media correspondent, Jon Gower, will present his thrilling new collection of short stories: *Too Cold For Snow*; a fabulous and fascinating collection of stories that range from the Taiga region of Russia to the depths of despair.

After Jon, we'll journey from Paris to Bangor, as Bill Rees recounts the trials, joys and tribulations of selling second hand books and the thrill of finding valuable first editions.

Full of quirky anecdotes, Bill's book, *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Book Runner* is sure to spark the imagination of all book-lovers.

To round off this day of journeys, the acclaimed poet Roger Garfitt will present his wonderfully written memoir *The Horseman's Word*. Roger's book is not only a fascinating depiction of his life but of England too.

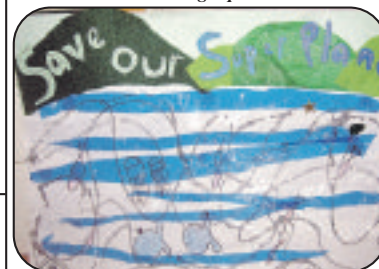
From his rural upbringing as a student in the Sixties, we see him as a stable boy, as an Oxford dandy meeting David Bowie and, eventually, his life inside a mental hospital. SC

## ST ILLTYD PRIMARY High score at peace festival



ABOVE:

Joshua Hanmer and Sam Godfrey (both aged eight) won first prize with their collage of a superhero warning cities about light pollution.



ABOVE: Penny Richards (eight) warned people to save our super planet with this collage.

**PUPILS and staff at St Illtyd Primary School in Llantwit Major were celebrating after scooping four first prize awards at the recent 2012 Cardiff and Vale Peace Festival on March 14.**

The competition was entitled 'Energy for Life', and invited primary school children to submit creative entries in the form of a story, poem, song, poster or model.

The organisers were looking for entries that demonstrated not only an artistic talent but that were also thought provoking, promoting renewable sources of energy that are not harmful to our environment. The competition was fierce with over 1,500 entries.

The prize-giving evening, hosted by the Vale Mayor, took place at Cardiff Council. It was enjoyed by the children and their parents.

The children enjoyed looking at other children's work displayed at the venue and especially

enjoyed the buffet put on for them afterwards!

Gabrielle Clark (10) came first for her model of a wind turbine farm, which she made with materials including felt, plasticine, cardboard and drinking straws.

Joshua Hanmer and Sam Godfrey (both 8) came first for a joint project; a collage of a superhero warning cities of light pollution.

Penny Richards (9) also came first for her collage encouraging others to 'save our super planet'.

St Illtyd Primary School also received a first prize award for a year-5 and 6 group effort.

The children (Rachael Hanmer (9), Erica Talbot-Morgan (10), and Fraser Prior, Charlotte Said, Emily Sqaunce, and Leanne Pitman (all 11) thoroughly enjoyed making their model about renewable and non-renewable sources of energy.

Teacher Miss Downie said: "I am so proud of the children. So much hard work, time and dedication went into making the entries for the competition."

## News from the Ageing Well Club at Llantwit

**ON March 20, members heard a very interesting and informative talk on osteoporosis by Jean Dowding, of the National Osteoporosis Society.**

The recently-formed choir, Octavia, meet every Tuesday morning in the Leisure Centre at 10am for choir practice and will be giving their first performance at the opening of the Ageing Well Club in Penarth on March 29.

Coming up next month there will be Golden Oldies Musical Entertainment on April 3. On April 10, for Easter, there will be entertainment by Emma and Dancers. Then on April 17 there will be a talk on arthritis.

The club is organising its first outing to Aberglasney on May 15 which will cost £20. This includes the entrance fee. Anyone wishing to go on this trip (members or non members) should contact Chris Collins on 07584346002.

The Ageing Well Club meets every Tuesday from 10.30am to 12.30am in the Llantwit Major Leisure Centre. New members and visitors are always welcome.

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[llantwit-major-today.co.uk](http://llantwit-major-today.co.uk)

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# AGGRESSIVE SEAGULLS ARE 'A MENACE'

## 'THE BIRDS' reign of terror in local town!

A harassed Barry resident says the unruly behaviour of local seagulls is like something out of Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds*.

In the 1964 film classic, the humans become the victims of avian aggression, and Richard Pierce said that delinquent seagulls are making people's lives a misery.

He told The GEM that the number of gulls had increased dramatically in the last decade, and had led to significant nuisance for residents.

Richard, who lives on Romilly Road, Barry, says that when seagulls live in their natural cliff top habitat they are no problem, but when they make their homes in residential streets, it is a different matter.

"Seagulls nest from around mid-March until October and in that time, the area around their nests and eggs become their territory.

"This sounds fine when they live on a cliff, but when they take to chimneys on domestic properties and flat roofs it is a nightmare.

"They attack when you enter, leave or simply walk past the house. "I live near Romilly Primary School and the seagulls dive bomb and attack the children as they walk past my home!"

For Richard and his family it is difficult to get respite from the seagulls during daylight hours.

"The gulls start squawking from first light - which in the summer is as early as 4am - and carry on until it gets dark.

by TIM CHAPMAN



**ABOVE:** Richard Pierce is appealing to the Vale Council to deal with marauding seagulls.

"When they are sitting on my chimney pot you can hear the noise down the chimney. The young seagulls squeak for food and it is an annoying, piercing sound."

There have even been instances of young seagulls falling down the chimneys. Richard's son rescued one gull from a neighbour's chimney and put it out in the garden to give it a chance of survival, only for a fight to develop between seagulls and a local fox.

Richard said the seagulls even fight among themselves - sometimes the young gulls fight the previous year fight the parents for the nest when they return 'home'.

"The Vale Council's policy on their web site is that home owners should deal with these pests using private contractors. But the problem is too

big for single households to make a difference.

"I have a pair of herring gulls that nest in between my chimney pots. I have tried the recommended defence of placing spikes between the pots, but they use them as a base to hold their nest!"

"To get nets over a chimney costs £320 for the scaffolding and £150 for the netting - it means that for my three chimneys I could be up to almost £1,500.

"I am considering moving because the noise is unbearable let alone the physical attacks.

"Even if I successfully move them from my chimneys, they will move to someone else's."

Richard said that the seagulls' reign of terror is prevalent in many places in the centre of Cardiff - except one location dear to the heart of every Welshman: the Millennium Stadium, where a bird of prey is employed to frighten them off.

He issued this appeal: "The gulls are protected by law, but what about us home owners. Come on Vale Council, please take action against these vermin before someone does get hurt."

**'PROTECTED'** Alun Billinghurst, the head of public protection, a the Vale Council highlighted the fact that sea gulls are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and are not classed as vermin.

He explained: "It is an offence to kill or injure any birds or their nests or eggs unless acting under a licence and only in compliance with the con-



**ABOVE:** Two of the unwelcome visitors perched on Richard's house.

ditions of that licence.

"Government licences are issued allowing owners or occupiers to kill certain species or destroy their nests and eggs in order to prevent serious damage to agriculture, preserve public health or air safety or conserve other wild bird species.

"But even in these circumstances, it is illegal to do anything that will cause suffering to gulls."

Mr Billinghurst said that the council has no statutory duty to take action over gulls and does not currently have a specific resource for the general 'control and removal' of gulls or other wild birds.

He pointed out: "If gulls are fed regularly it will create an artificially high population and encourage further breeding pairs to take up residence in the area.

"A natural population

level will be established only if the gulls are left to fend for themselves from natural food sources.

"It is best to prevent gulls building nests in the first place, so the council continues to recommend owners or occupiers of buildings, which have, or may attract roof nesting gulls to provide the building with deterrent measures suitable to the individual building."

The three principal methods of deterring nuisance gulls outlined by the council are:

- Fitting wires or nets to prevent herring gulls landing.

- Fitting of short spikes, contained in a special plastic base, to nesting locations such as dormer roofs.

- Fitting of long spikes to nesting locations such as chimney stacks.

## Llantwit students help juniors with science lessons



Pupils get stuck in to their science projects.



**PUPILS and staff from Llantwit Major Comprehensive School recently visited Rhws Primary school to help them with their science and engineering week.**

All pupils at the school did science all week and had fun exploring their themes and undertaking experiments.

Some sixth formers visited year-5 pupils with lab technician Mrs Sheryl Norris. They demonstrated experiments including a rock salt experi-

ment; mixing lead nitrate and potassium iodide to make lead iodide, and a thermite reaction.

Year-6 pupils came to the comprehensive school to undertake a circus of experiments including: using microscopes, making rockets and using a Van de Graaff to make their teachers' hair stand on end!!

Year-5 pupils had a fun-filled session at the comprehensive school designing and racing an electrically-powered vehicle.

## All eyes are on the chicks (and tadpoles!)



Pupils were delighted when their chicks started hatching.

**CHILDREN at Ysgol Dewi Sant have been waiting in anticipation for weeks for the arrival of some little chicks in the classroom.**

They have been closely monitoring the eggs in the incubator and have even kept a diary of events.

The children were delighted last week when the first of many chicks hatched, closely followed by another

four!

Also in the classroom, the children are monitoring the progress of the class tadpoles, watching daily to see what changes they can observe.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning this term about how to take care of animals and their young.

RS



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### Life in the media!

THIS was the theme of an extremely interesting talk by BBC Wales presenter Lucy Owen, which took place in the restored St Canna's vestry on March 22.

To a packed audience, Lucy told how nervous she had been at her first interview to become a newsreader and TV interviewer. When we see on our screens what a true professional she has become, it is difficult to believe!

Following her talk in her experiences in the media, Lucy had time to pose for photos and autographs. Many of her former Llangan

### COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Dawidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303



### EASTER COFFEE

Newton Institute, Porthcawl, will hold a coffee morning on March 31 at 10.30am; admission 50p, raffle, cake stall, gift stall, tombola and Easter bonnet parade and competition for adults and children. All welcome.

neighbours and others from other villages joined in a vote of thanks.

### Vestry meeting

THE meeting which took place at Saron Vestry Club last Wednesday was well attended.

The next meeting will take place on April 4 at 7pm, when the ladies will endeavour to show their prowess in an Easter bonnet competition. New members are welcome.

**Cymanfa Ganu** ON a beautiful evening, residents from local villages and further afield came to Saron Chapel on Sunday, March 25 for the Cymanfa Ganu, which was held to help raise funds for the forthcoming National Eisteddfod at Llandow.

Cor Meibion y Machlud, conducted by Eric Dafydd, with accompanist Carol Phillips, had a superb harp soloist, Megan Morris, and provided a lovely evening bringing back memories with 'Calon Lan' and 'Cwm Rhondda,' and the audience joined in the singing.



## Children walk a mile for Sport Relief at Pendoylan Primary!



**CHILDREN** at Pendoylan Church in Wales Primary School walked a mile in fancy dress and wellies to raise £507 for Sport Relief.



*As you can see from the wide array of costumes, the pupils of Pendoylan primary had plenty of fun while also helping a very worthwhile cause!*

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### Writers in the making at school!

**FOLLOWING** a very successful author visit and workshop year-8 pupils at Bryn Hafren school were asked to submit their outline scripts for a 'Dark Romance' novel.

Winners were presented with their prizes at assembly.

Four pupils also won a signed copy of Alex Bell's book *Jasmyr* for giving the author feedback on the workshop sessions.



Author Alex Bell was on hand to provide guidance to pupils.

### COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS ROUND-UP

## Football team's run comes to an end at hands of Bishop

**THE year-8 football team played a very strong Bishop of Llandaff side on Monday, March 19.**

It was the semi-final of the Cardiff and Vale Cup, so a place in the final was resting on this game.

Cowbridge started the game extremely well with a goal from David Bear within five minutes. The boys played some lovely football along the floor, when the ball came to David on the outside of the box, where he dispatched the ball into the back of the net with ease.

Bishop of Llandaff were straight back into the game although, with two goals before the half to make the score 2-1, and just from the first half alone, it was clear that this game was going to go down to the

wire.

Both teams were playing great football, especially considering the pupils were only 12 and 13 years old.

The second half started in the same vein as the first, but Cowbridge were now looking the stronger team. They were controlling the centre of the park and had the most of the possession.

After a few minutes Bishop of Llandaff scored again against the run of play, and now Cowbridge were down 3-1. Cowbridge were not finished yet, and due to the pressure they were exerting on the defence, a foul was conceded just outside the box.

With David Bear in such fine form, he stepped up to take the free-kick, and powered the ball through the wall and into the goal.

Cowbridge kept on the offence, and with only five minutes to go, were awarded a penalty. David Bear again stepped up, and coolly slid the ball past the keeper.

The score was 3-3, and this is how the game finished after normal and extra time.

The dreaded penalty shoot out was imminent and after four penalties, both schools had missed one each and it came down to the last penalty.

Unfortunately, the Bishop of Llandaff keeper produced a great save and Cowbridge had lost.

Player of the match: David Bear.

**Rugby ON March 21, the Cowbridge year-8 rugby team took part in the Urdd 7s tournament at Coleg Sir Gar, Llanelli.**

The day started in the toughest way possible, with the first game against Gwyr. Gwyr were a very strong and organised side, but Cowbridge were never going to back down.

The game finished 22-5, but the boys showed some bright signs and after this game were now looking to plough on.

The second game was against Oakdale, and although they had a number of skilled players, Cowbridge were too strong for them all over the park.

Dan Bunny and Cai Evans scored a couple of tries, and the game finished 26-0, and their first win was registered.

After a long wait, the year-8s played their third fixture. This game was going to be a very important one, as it would most probably decide who was going to finish second in the group and therefore move on to the knock-out stages.

Afon Taf played extremely well, and on numerous occasions caught the year-8 team napping. The match ended 26-0 to Afon Taf, and we would now have to rely on other results to allow us to progress.

The fourth and final game was played against Llanhari. The Cowbridge boys played their best rugby yet, and dismissed a tricky side 19-12 to keep them in contention.

Unfortunately, results did not favour us after that as Afon Taf beat Llanhari 7-5 to send

them through.

We learnt a number of important lessons in the tournament year-8, but now these have been learnt, we can move on and we will be a better team for it.

**Hockey THE year-8 girls' hockey team played in the preliminary round of the Cardiff and Vale hockey tournament.**

Cowbridge faced Bro-Morgannwg first. The game finished 0-0 after some great shots of goal from Bro-Morgannwg, but Hetty Breed (player of the match) saved all of their shots.

Megan Duncombe and Molly Price also played well in defence keeping the ball from entering our goal.

In the second game, Cowbridge played Llanishen who had beaten Bro-Morgannwg 2-0. Genevieve Kirk, Jemma Viney and Cerys Bradshaw all did a great job in attack and mid-field to have a few opportunities of scoring but could never get past their strong sweeper.

Likewise, Llanishen never got passed the Cowbridge defence. The game ended 0-0, and Llanishen go on to the county finals.

**Netball COWBRIDGE played a more unusual fixture against Llanishen High School from Cardiff. The B team played first against a tall, strong year-7 team.**

The pace of the game was quick and frantic, and Llanishen took an early 1-0 lead. After half time, Cowbridge played some more consistent netball, putting some excellent passes together.

Some fantastic defence from Seren Hawksworth and centre court play from Sophie Oddy made Cowbridge 2-1 winners.

The A team faced similar opposition in Llanishen's A team. The girls were tall and physical, but were unable to keep pace with the year-7 Cowbridge team.

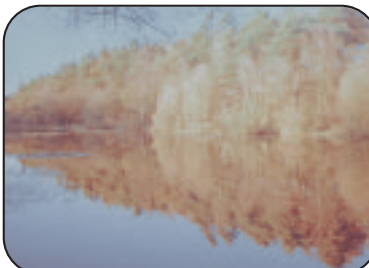
The Cowbridge girls dodged and passed the ball well and in the second half moved into space, playing more comprehensively than Llanishen. It was a hard fought game but Cowbridge won 4-1.

Player of the match: A team, Nia Davies; B team, Seren Hawksworth.

## Cowbridge school hosts 'Concerto!'

**COWBRIDGE Comprehensive School is holding a Welsh Sinfonia 'Concerto!' this Friday (March 30) at 7.30pm, starring their concert band.**

## SNAPPED: a hidden treasure



**I HAVE enclosed a photo which I would like to share with your readers.**

The photo is of 'Pysgodlyn Mawr', which means large fish lake, situated at Heol-y-March near Cowbridge.

When I first visited the area, I had the pleasure and delight of catching the angle of the sun just right for the lake.

The reflections of the trees in the lake are most pronounced and colour-

ful, due to the position of the sun.

The whole scene was so picturesque and captivating. Between the beautiful lake and the woodland paths, some of which I walked that day, I felt as if I had spent time at a hidden treasure in the Vale.

**Judith Holden, Porthcawl**

**GEM NOTE: As you can see below, the image, when rotated, also resembles a tree!**







# GEM sport

## LITCHARD PARK DISPATCHED - COULD LEAGUE GLORY BE ON THE CARDS?

# Two wins from two ensures final spot for the Sunday Saints

**SAINTS** charged into the final of the Premier play-offs with a game in hand thanks to a convincing and dominant victory over a classy Litchard side.

Goals from Phil Morgan, Dean Cleave and Nicky Cox eased the home side to the win.

In a buoyant mood after their last victory against long time rivals Maerdy, Saints looked dangerous from the off.

Sticking to the formation that proved so successful last time out, the St Athan team threw men forward at every opportunity to nick an early lead.

Dean Cleave looked hungry to add to his growing list of goals of late. Early on in the game, when he took control of the ball just outside the box, his powerful, curling shot was impressively tipped around the far post.

Moments later, Cleave did find the net to open the scoring.

After a Litchard clearance, the ball fell to Cleave who followed with a quick one-two with Mortimore and then squared the ball to

Phil Morgan. Morgan sent the ball across the box past the impeded Reece Lewis to find Cleave again who scored from the edge of the box.

Unfortunately, the Litchard Park defender, who blocked Lewis in the box then had to be replaced after suffering a broken foot fouling Lewis.

After the lengthy break for the injury, not resting on their laurels, Saints quickly looked to create a safer score line.

Two more notable chances including: a powerful cross from Morgan hitting the outside of Litchard's post and a lobbed pass from Rob West almost catching out the away side's keeper.

Litchard were just about keeping Saints at bay until around the twenty-five minute mark.

A Saints' corner looped in and found Cleave who had his subsequent shot blocked on the line. The rebound fell to Saints' skipper Nicky Cox, whose effort at goal gained a generous deflection and found the back of the net, doubling their advantage.

After seeming to take their foot off the gas for

### Bridgend & District Sunday League Premier Play Offs SAINTS FC 5 LITCHARD PARK A 2

the remaining of the half, Saints then found themselves going into half-time three goals to the good.

Phil Morgan advanced with the ball and outpaced two Litchard players to find space for him on the far side of the pitch; he then crossed to find Cleave again on the near side, who wonderfully placed a looped header over the onrushing 'keeper.

Fresh from the break and this season's top scorer Phil Morgan added his name to the score sheet in spectacular fashion.

The ball dropped to Cleave in the midfield and he lobbed the ball in behind the Litchard back line and Morgan took the ball in his stride to unleash a stunning drive on the half volley that nestled in the far corner.

Litchard didn't give up however and they scored what seemed to be a consolation goal, on the hour mark.

A neat through ball

found their forward who pulled off an impressive chipped shot to score their first.

With the win seemingly in the bag, Saints current second highest scorer, Jordan Mortimore was given the freedom to advance further up the pitch from his centre back position.

Reece Lewis found the now attacking Mortimore in acres of space on the near side. He then brought the ball into the Litchard box.

Mortimore had the option to score himself but chose to unselfishly square the ball to Morgan who walked the ball over the line for his 24th goal this season.

Litchard did pull a second back at the death with the final kick of the game as Saints conceded a spot kick which was duly dispatched, with the home keeper almost getting a hand to it.

Saints were in control of the match from start to finish and produced another fine dis-

play.

After Coedely drew 0-0 with Maerdy, Saints next game of the play offs at home to Coedely on Sunday week could be a dress rehearsal for the play off grand final (top two face off).

Saints already have a spot in the final but will have to be at their best once again when the impressive Coedely come to St Athan.

Honourable mentions this week go to Nicky Cox and Phil Morgan – but man of the match for the third game running was Dean Cleave after two goals and two assists, and making his side tick throughout the game.

Many thanks to Lafarge Cement (Aberthaw Works), The Kinsale Stone Company (Wales) Ltd for sponsorship of the team, and of course The GEM.

A very special mention goes to Roy and Cyndy at the Four Bells, St Athan for their wonderful support of the team over the last few seasons as they leave the Bells this week.

From all the boys thank you very much for all you have done in support of the club.

RC

## Cowbridge RFC looking at promotion

**COWBRIDGE** welcomed Tonna to the Athletic Field last Saturday and in glorious sunshine ran out worthy winners by 38-17.

Within 3 minutes of the start Cowbridge nearly scored following a mazy run from full back Matt Pound, but he was pulled back for foot in touch. Cowbridge went into their shell as outside half Carwyn Morgan's two penalties were cancelled out by two from the Tonna full back.

But 25 minutes in, from a scrum, scrum half Dewi Edwards got the ball away to Morgan who beat two men and put in a delightful kick ahead that pounced perfectly for flying wing Liam Rowland to gather and sprint over for an unconverted try.

Edwards put in the tackle of the half to earn a penalty, but the next score went to Tonna with a third penalty.

Just before half time a charge up the wing by hooker Luke Adams released wing Matt Logsden but again he was deemed to have put a foot in touch. Half time produced the unsatisfying score of 11-9.

With Cowbridge on top in the scrum and doing well in the lineout the score-line produced a stern talking to the players by the coaches, Rhys and Allyn - and it worked. In the opening 5 minutes from a pick up from the base of the scrum No 8 and captain Ross Llewellyn released scrum half Edwards and his excellent pass found full back Pound coming up at pace.

He went outside then back inside to score a try from 35 metres out. Minutes later Pound put a kick across field, wing Logsden chased and caught his opposite number.

Support arrived and the ball was spun out to Morgan who put flanker Luke Boys through a gap to score. Morgan added the extras.

Then just before the mid point Tonna launched several attacks and Pound was adjudged to have kicked out at an opponent and was sent to the touchline for 10 minutes.

Minutes later from what seemed a harsh penalty for holding on in the tackle Tonna got their fourth penalty. Cowbridge made changes when the sin binning came to an end with Rhys Price coming on at hooker, and Boys

going to centre.

With 15 minutes left great work by Edwards as he managed to steal Tonna's ball from the base of the scrum. Ross Llewellyn took it on, the ball was recycled and Morgan dummied his way through to the line for a try he converted.

Second row Alex Lewis came on for Carwyn Davies and on the 30 minute mark Tonna ran a penalty 10 metres out and worked their right wing over in the corner.

Hooker Adams, who had made several bullocking runs took a knock and Alun John replaced him.

It took a great tackle from wing Rowlands to stop a break out by Tonna and then a further penalty from Morgan eased the score out.

With minutes remaining Alex Lewis crashed over near the corner following good work by wing Logsden and No 8

Llewellyn for a final score of 38-17.

An important win with a vital bonus point secured. Cowbridge took a while to get going but put in a strong second half to run out winners.

There are tough games ahead and the team can't afford to be off the pace for a half as they were here.

This Saturday Cowbridge travel to South Wales Police, kick off 2:30; the X2 runs at quarter to and quarter past the hour and your support would be much appreciated.

Then on April 7 we welcome Cefn Cribbwr, two must win games if we are to keep in contention near the top.

It has been many a long year since we have been within sight of the top of the table so these are exciting times – come and be a part of it!

RV/RK

## Return to the top flight for squash team?

**RECENT results in the South Wales Squash Leagues (Division 2 east) have seen the possibility of promotion back to Division 1 east for the Cowbridge Bar 44 A team with a superb 4-1 home win over second-placed promotion rivals St Mellons B.**

This followed a very narrow reverse away at fourth placed Cardiff Vets. This leaves "winnable" fixtures away at Old Penarthians A and bottom two teams Newport E and Llantrisant B.

Nick Guard and his team turned over a multi-gunned team from St Mellons with a resounding 4-1 win to put them within 13 points of a promotion slot with three matches to play.

This potentially could have been a 5-0 maximum but for No 5 Niall Sloan picking up a calf strain at the end the first game against Dave Godfrey. Despite this Sloan battled through the match but eventually going down 1-3 (taking the second rubber 11-9).

Earlier Jon Bisson (No 2) put together a wonderfully energetic performance to grind down Brett

James 3-0 (11-8, 11-8, 11-8). At No 3 Garfield Leask went into an early lead (11-6 in the first) before dropping the next two games (7-11, 11-13) before recovering to win a gruelling five setter.

Fitness fanatic St Mellons no 1 John Blackmore could not live with the sheer class of Nick Guard's squash and soon found himself on the end of a 3-0 (11-8, 11-8, 11-8) result from the Cowbridge Bar 44 talisman.

And so, it was left to the endeavour of No 4 Simon Payne to put the icing on the cake – this, he did but in no easy fashion, in a nip and tuck affair through 11-5, 6-11, 11-9, 9-11 to 6-10 down in the fifth to plough a series of points to his match 14-12 in the fifth. Match result 17-7. The As entertain bottom of the table Llantrisant B this week looking for the points to get them ever closer to that promotion place.

'A team 44' have a longer programme than the Bs and Cs – a full round will be reported at season end.

Membership details may be obtained from Dave Garnham (07721 533443) or any other information from russ.watts@bropen-world.com

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## Llantwit Major junior football round-up

**L L A N T W I T** Major under-13A lost a superb Cup Semi Final 4-3 after extra time to Sully Sports A in the Vale of Glamorgan on Saturday.

The standard of football was exceptional between two of the top teams in the division and Sully edged home in the final minute after the Major had been denied a penalty for a handball in the Sully area, seconds earlier.

However, it was a game that neither side deserved to lose, such was the standard met by both clubs.

The Llantwit Major goalscorers were Kieran

Griffiths, Cai Evans and Josh Morgan in a titanic attempt to reach the final against the Cup favourites Sully Sports who have lost just one match this season – against Llantwit Major in the league and the return league game is yet to come.

The under-12A side once again played a brand of football which has taken them to the top of the League when they entertained Sully Sports B at Windmill Lane.

Lewis Brown notched a hat-trick with team mates Moses Gee (2), Angus Mitchell (2), Sam Snaith and Luke Beattie giving Llantwit a 9-1 victory.

Wenvoe Colts were the visitors to Windmill Lane to play the under-

1B team and it was another close encounter with the match finishing all square at 2-2 with the points shared.

Matthew Reynolds and Otto Guwy were Llantwit's marksmen in a very entertaining match.

Tom Rogers scored for the under-15 team in their 2-1 defeat at home to Sully Sports A.

After a disappointing first half display, Llantwit played much better in the second half and had the chances to share the spoils but the visitors held on to take maximum points.

The under-14 side had another convincing win at Barry Sports Centre beating High Street Harriers 8-1.

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**THURSDAY, MARCH 29TH, 2012**

# Bridgend man was 'punched and kicked to face and body'

A householder was attacked outside his home in Bridgend, and as he fell to his knees, he was repeatedly punched and kicked to the face and body.

At Cardiff Crown Court, Maris Beide (29) of Edward Street, Bridgend, was sentenced to ten months imprisonment, suspended for two years.

He had been convicted by Vale magistrates of causing Auktumas Pumputis actual bodily harm and had been committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

He was also ordered to carry out 180 hours unpaid work and to pay his victim £750 compensation plus costs of £500.

Judge Rhys Rowlands also made a

## CROWN COURT REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

five-year restraining order banning the defendant from contacting Mr Pumputis and his family and not to go near his home for five years.

### 'SUSTAINED ATTACK'

Said the judge: "This was an attack at night on a householder and his wife was present. Three people were involved and the attack was sustained."

He said that a report he had read indicated there was no suggestion that Beide was the least bit sorry for what he did.

Prosecutor James Evans said a second defendant had been charged, but the case against him was dismissed by the magis-

trate. He said that on June 12 last year, Mr Pumputis and his family were at their home in Acland Road, Bridgend.

At about 10.30pm, Mr Pumputis, his wife and a lodger heard a loud bang on the front door and the sound of shouting and swearing.

Mrs Pumputis answered the door and saw three men, including the defendant.

### 'BECAME AGGRESSIVE'

One of them said he had gone to the house to see a man who was once a lodger, and he was told that person was no longer there.

The men then became aggressive and called Mrs Pumputis a

"bitch".

The husband told them to go away, and one tried to get into the house.

Mr Pumputis was pulled into the street and punched to the face.

When he fell on his hands and knees, he was kicked and punched and was later treated for grazes and two black eyes.

"The attack lasted some time before the men left," said Mr Evans.

When arrested, Beide denied being involved.

His counsel, Byron Broadstock, said that at the magistrates' court, Beide had had no legal representation.

## ARSON: police seek mystery man

**FOLLOWING a series of arson attacks at a property in Ogmere Vale, police are keen to identify a man seen walking past Gorwyl Flats and up to Highland Place at 10.50pm on Thursday, March 1.**

He wore a distinctive, light hooded top with a large, dark number 8 on the back.

"Later that night the front door of one of the ground floor flats was set ablaze. The flat was vacant at the time of the incident.

"If you recognise the man, or have any further information regarding the incident, please contact Bridgend CID on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111," a spokeswoman said.

## BILLY - THE MUSICAL UNVEILS YOUNG BLOOD



ABOVE: Joe Wiltshire-Smith (centre) and the cast of Billy - The Musical.  
(Picture by Mission Photographic).

# Youth theatre's new show is a chance to go talent-spotting

## Report by PHILIP IRWIN

**THE Bridgend Youth Theatre (BYT) is celebrating the success of many of its former graduates - and residents in the borough will get a chance to see the latest crop when they perform their next show in early April.**

The BYT is presenting *Billy the Musical* at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl on Wednesday, April 4 (7.30pm), and Thursday, April 5 (2.30pm matinee and 7.30pm).

Based on the novel and film *Billy Liar*, the show is a combination of fantasy, pathos and comedy as the audience enters the world of Billy Fisher - a daydreamer par excellence.

The plot follows Billy's journey through imagined worlds with comic characters, and is a tale of a young boy's daydreams and ambitions.

It has a great musical pedigree, with music by the Oscar-winning John Barry, and lyrics by the prolific Don Black.

This show was the musical in which Michael Crawford made his name, and Bridgend Youth Theatre's version is being used to showcase the talents of the youth theatre's budding performers.

Roger Burnell, the director of the BYT, told The GEM that he was really excited with how well some of the recent graduates were doing. He said: "Aneurin Barnard, who was recently seen playing David Bailey alongside Karen Gillan in *We'll Take Manhattan*, is currently filming in Hollywood.

"He is also starring in *Hunky Dory*, a film that is out on general release."

"Danielle Branch is starring in *Hunky Dory* as well, alongside Aneurin and Minnie Driver.

"Amy Morgan, who had a lead role in the BBC Wales drama *Baker Boys*, is now in the West End starring in *Hay Fever*, while Emma Housley is currently understudying the role of Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* - also in the West End.

"Alyn Hawke is also on stage in the West End, starring in *Top Hat*, and Ben McGregor has a lead role in *Fresh Meat* (Channel Four), and also in *The Indian Doctor* on BBC1.

"James Morgan is also appearing in *The Indian Doctor*, while Katie Salt, fresh from a role in Ruth Jones' *Stella on Sky*, has just finished playing Phoebe in Theatre Clwyd's version of *As You Like It* in

Cardiff's New Theatre. "From that, she moves to the Octagon Theatre in Bolton to play the lead in *Little Voice* - the show that made Jane Horrocks a star.

"It's a role that is perfect for Katie, and will give her a chance to show off her singing talents, as well as her acting."

He concluded: "These, and many other

actors, dancers, singers and technicians, were given opportunities to hone their skills at BYT."

Will Billy launch more talented performers? Joe Wiltshire-Smith, who will play the title role, is looking more than promising - and there are several other rising stars in the east...

For tickets, telephone 01656 815995, or book online at [www.grand-pavilion.co.uk](http://www.grand-pavilion.co.uk)

## PREMIER WILL 'LOOK AGAIN' AT REMPLOY CLOSURES

**FIRST MINISTER of Wales, Carwyn Jones, who is the AM for Bridgend, has written to the Prime Minister welcoming his commitment to consider proposals to devolve responsibility for Remploy factories to Wales.**

Earlier this month, the UK Government announced plans to close seven of the nine factories in Wales, including the Bridgend factory, putting hundreds of jobs at risk.

Welsh Government Ministers have repeatedly called on the UK Government to look at the proposal to devolve the Remploy budget for the next three years to help Ministers in Wales develop a sustainable future for some of the factories.

In the House of Commons this week, the Prime Minister did not rule out the idea and promised to "look carefully" at the proposal.

The First Minister has written directly to David Cameron to welcome his statement and call on him to urgently explore options for Remploy factories in Wales.

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## Historian's Easter memento



WITH Easter almost upon us, Porthcawl local historian John David has unearthed a reminder of how it was celebrated during wartime.

John is pictured with a paper Easter Cross given out to church-goers in Porthcawl, in lieu of the traditional hand made Palm crosses in 1942.

At the time of course, wartime austerity was at its most severe, and transport was reserved for more vital supplies.

As a result, worshippers were forced to improvise...



ABOVE: The 1942 pal cross (made of paper) and (top) John David retrieves it from the Bible where it had been kept.

## Bridgend Bridge Club results

**RESULTS for Bridgend Bridge Club for Wednesday, March 2:** First, Glyn Williams and Mel Humphreys; Second, John Beard and Liam Sheridan; Third, Alan Grant and Sheila Storer.

**Friday 23 March:** First, Glyn Williams and John Evans; Second, Tony and Emer Disley; Third, Liam Sheridan and Wendy Williams.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 7pm at Noltan Church Hall, there are lessons for beginners on Fridays at 7.30pm with Graham Jones and for improvers on Wednesdays at 2.30pm with John Beard. All welcome.

To register an interest, contact John Beard (01446 771445), Graham Jones (01446 775952), Steve Burgoyne (01656 661958), or David Newman (01656 649138).

Tomorrow Friday (March 30) there is a special evening for improvers and people who have played Rubber but not Duplicate Bridge. Experienced players will be on hand if assistance is wanted. There will be separate movement for the club regulars.

# HOW ROMAN SPRING TURNED INTO EASTER EGG TRADITION

**SPRING is one of the pleasurable seasons of the year, as it breaks the transition between the winter and summer.**

It lasts for three months from March to May and is an indication that nature is preparing for new beginnings, when animals and insects re-emerge from hibernation and birds raise their young.

Plants, flowers and trees begin their rebirth, too.

Spring is a varied season, as throughout the world it is dependent on local climate and time zones.

The spring equinox on March 21 has been declared as the first day

of this welcome season, and the noticeable increase in more hours of daylight and a rise in temperature are all significant because of the earth's tilt of 23.5 on its axis towards the sun, as well as more prominent tidal currents.

In more recent times, earlier appearances of spring have occurred with rising temperatures during the winter months sending nature into confusion.

Also known as the vernal equinox which falls between March 19-21, the spring equinox (which means equal night in Latin), was originally introduced by the Romans, who used the lunar calendar to predict the spring season, as they realised that both day and night were

12 hours long.

But it was Julius Caesar who reformed the festival to the solar calendar, declaring the date of the equinox to be March 25 with 365 days in the year ahead and a day extra every four years. In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII changed the date back to March 21 because March and April were known for their connections with religious festivals.

The main celebration during springtime is Easter, which is thought to derive from Pagan, Hebrew and Christian traditions.

Eggs portray signs of new life, and they became traditionally eaten at Easter, taken from the German word Eostre.

Eggs were forbidden

to be consumed during the 40 days of Lent, where fasting and omitting dairy products from the diet was essential.

It was customary to present friends with red coloured eggs while chanting Easter greetings. Red symbolised the blood shed by Jesus during his crucifixion.

Ancient traditions surrounding the spring equinox and Easter include Morris dancing, performed on Easter Sunday to banish the evil spirits of winter.

Another favourite custom was performed on Easter Monday and Tuesday. Named 'lifting and heaving', it required young men to visit houses in their neighbourhood carrying a chair decorated with flowers.

They would encour-

age girls or ladies to sit upon the chair, and the men would lift the female three times into the air as a sign of good luck for the year ahead.

The following day, the opposite was performed where the ladies would tend to the duties of the chair lifting!

The fable of freshly-baked bread, made on Good Friday and handed to sailors on ships about to set off on the high seas, was believed to bring good luck for the voyage ahead.

The eerie occurrence of dancing white waves appearing in the vicinity Nash Point around Easter time have been seen.

Witnesses have described them as 'Merry dances' when deceased sailors seemed to ride on the crest of

the wave as if on horseback. But could these ghostly images be an indication that the departed are still lurking on the seas where they met their end, or just a trick of the imagination?

An intriguing legend of folklore involves spring-heeled Jack. Thought to have lived during the Victorian era, he would perform giant leaps into the air at night. He was believed to be tall and thin, wearing a black cloak. He had clawed hands with his eyes resembling red balls of fire, breathing out blue and white flames before disappearing into the night.

*Fact or fiction? Only you can decide...*

**HAYLEY WILLIAMS**  
hayley.williams550@yahoo.com

## Concerns over future at The Rest

**CARDIFF University Professor Roger Falconer was the Porthcawl U3A's March guest speaker at The Rest, followed by the annual general meeting.**

Gloucester County surveyor Thomas Fulljames first proposed the Severn Barrage in 1849 and Professor Falconer gave the latest ideas on building this enormous project after 163 years.

A 10-mile dam across the Severn Estuary from Lavernock to Bream Down is estimated to cost £26 billion or £34B, if topped with a road and £40B for a road and rail crossing.

It would take seven years to build, have a design life of 120 years and produce enough electricity for all Wales, although the plan is to divide the output 50-50 between England and Wales. Wind turbine generation is unreliable but output from the barrage could be predicted 50 or even 100 years into the future.

Plans under consideration range from installing 216 to 1,000 turbines and to use tidal flood-only generation, tidal ebb only or using both tidal flood and ebb

to generate the electricity.

Benefits would include 30,000 construction jobs and 10,000 permanent jobs, upstream flood control, substantial enlargement of Port Talbot docks, major road and rail expansion and tourist attractions for Porthcawl.

Corlan Hafren, a private sector consortium, has proposed a privately financed plan with investors from the Middle and Far East, Norway and the UK interested to fund the barrage costs while UK Taxpayers will incur heavy fines from the EU if existing green energy targets are not achieved.

At the AGM, the 140 members present heard serious concerns that The Rest would greatly diminish its current community hub facilities under new development plans now seeking approval.

The developer was chosen because they proposed to continue allowing community use within the original Rest; however, it seems this will not be allowed under the new proposal.

U3A have around 120 study hours a month at The Rest and a total of 14 local groups meet there.

**GARY VICTOR (U3A)**

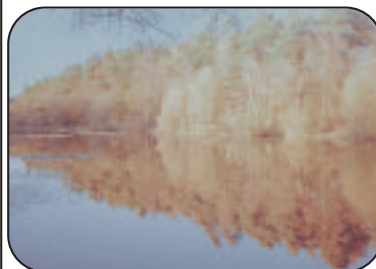
## CRAFT FAIRS AT THE YMCA

**FROM May 5, the Bridgend YMCA will be holding craft fairs each Saturday.**

Cafe with free wi-fi and internet access for customers to relax while browsing the stalls; free car parking on site.

For full details, email administrator Mr Alun Fletcher on [bridgendymca.af@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bridgendymca.af@hotmail.co.uk).

## SNAPPED: a hidden treasure!



**I HAVE enclosed a photo which I would like to share with your readers.**

The photo is of 'Pysgodlyn Mawr', which means large fish lake, situated at Heol-y-March near Cowbridge.

When I first visited the area, I had the pleasure and delight of catching the angle of the sun just right for the lake.

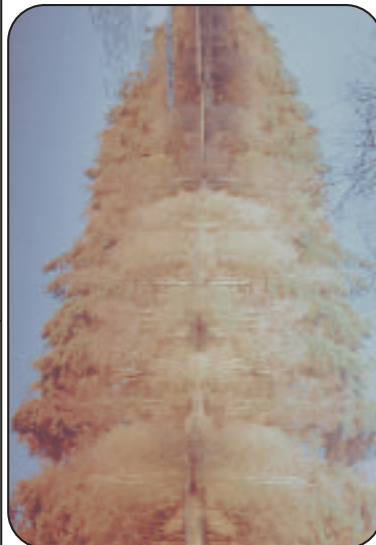
The reflections of the trees in the lake are most pronounced and colour-

ful, due to the position of the sun.

The whole scene was so picturesque and captivating. Between the beautiful lake and the woodland paths, some of which I walked that day, I felt as if I had spent time at a hidden treasure in the Vale.

**JUDITH HOLDEN, Porthcawl**

**GEM NOTE:** As you can see below, the image, when rotated, also resembles a tree!



## Students set up their own record label



**Bridgend's Jamie Jones (21) and his fellow University of Glamorgan students who have established their own record label; Hydra Records.**

**JAMIE JONES (21) is one of a group of final year students from the University of Glamorgan making their mark on the south Wales music scene with their own record label.**

Digital independent record label Hydra Records released an EP by its first signing, metalcore band Buried in Alaska, earlier this week.

Jamie and fellow BA (Hons) popular music students Samantha Bull, Luke Tregunna, Jack Barnett and Jon Powell formed the label as part of a final project for their course.

## HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL APRIL 5)

*The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.*

*For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.*

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
29 Thur	11.10	8.2	23.14	8.0
30 Fri	11.42	7.7		
31 Sat	00.06	7.6	12.47	7.3
01 Sun	01.23	7.3	14.21	7.2
02 Mon	02.59	7.4	15.49	7.5
03 Tues	04.15	8.0	16.49	8.2
04 Wed	05.11	8.7	17.39	8.9
05 Thur	06.59	9.4	18.24	9.6

*While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.*



# High Sheriff's awards celebrate the good work of young people

**RECENTLY, young people in mid-Glamorgan received awards for their work in the community from the High Sheriff, Dr Barbara Wilding, recently retired Chief Constable of South Wales Police.**

The presentation evening was hosted by permission of Matthew West, general manager at the Ortho Clinical Diagnostic plant at Pencoed Technology Park.

Mr West said he was pleased to be welcoming so many deserving

youngsters to the plant, which is part of the worldwide Johnson and Johnson Group.

He also welcomed representatives from all parts of the county. The Mayors of Bridgend county borough and Pencoed town, together with Omore AM Janice Gregory were there, plus a large number of enthusiastic supporters and parents, who saw the winners receive prizes, which ranged for £250 to £500. The main speaker for the evening was Penny Roberts of TV and radio fame.

The awards were set

up in 2008 by the then High Sheriff Anne Morgan, and with the support of the main sponsors Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, SonyUK,tec and Alan Sheppard Chemists, they have become a success and made several generous awards to young people in the county.

The current High Sheriff, Barbara Wilding, said she was delighted, not just by being able to reward the young people financially, but also with achieving the objective of increasing their self-esteem and helping them to integrate further into their communities.

*Local young people who won prizes were:*

Charlina Bevan John, who was entered by Bridge Mentoring Service, and comes from Porthcawl

Her citation read: Charlina has been a volunteer with Bridge since September 2009. She initially volunteered as a 1-2-1 mentor with a young girl.

Charlina saw her through major problems for more than a year and it ended with a successful re-engagement with the family.

Charlina ended their time together by giving her mentee a scrap book to look back on the journey and to help reinforce all the positive coping strategies she had learnt.

For the last year, Charlina has helped extensively in the Bridge office, taking on many different tasks and lending essential support to staff.

One project Charlina recently became involved with was a fundraising golf day.

Her sponsor said that she was a "vital cog in the wheel", not only helping on the day but also assisting in organising prizes and selling sponsorship.

Charlina was awarded a joint third prize and received a cheque for £150.

Sarah Thalayasingam was entered by Sgt Angela Bennett and comes from Bridgend.

**Her citation read:** Sarah volunteers with Girl Guiding and, in addition helps every week with the Rainbows.

This is, however, only part of her volunteering life. She raises money through singing and performing and other means for many charities and organisations such as Diabetes, Chloe Bignore Trust, Breatheasy, Cancer Research and the



**ABOVE: Sarah Thalayasingam with High Sheriff Barbara Wilding.**



**ABOVE: Charlina Bevan-John of Porthcawl.**



**ABOVE: Matthew West of Ortho Clinical**

RNIB.

Sarah is part of a young enterprise scheme at school, which has created a tablet-aided learning programme for use inside and outside the classroom; and she has also actively supported a young friend through considerable trauma, and represented Bridgend as the youngest member of the Youth Connection Team.

Since Sarah wishes to study medicine when she leaves school, she has applied to volunteer with the Princess of Wales Hospital and also at a care home.

Not surprisingly, Sarah has so impressed her own community that Laleston Community Council invited her to provide her views when they were seeking funding on a project.

Sarah was joint third and also received a prize of £150.

Highly commended in this category, and each receiving £50, were Daniel Jones (Wildmill), Megan Mattravers (Pencoed), Charlotte Pickett (Bridgend) and Blake Roberts (North Cornelly).

In the group awards, a year-8 pupil scheme at Maesteg Comprehensive were nominated by PCSO Bella Rees.

**Their citation read:** In response to drug and alcohol problems in their community a group of young people

in year-8 came together to work out how they could help and influence other youngsters.

Putting together their package of information and ideas, they approached PCSO Bella Rees, who made a submission for funding to the South Wales Police Trust - which was granted.

A two-day workshop followed, after which the pupil group then wrote, produced and directed an animated video based on their own knowledge and experience in the community.

They concentrated fully on the message they wanted to get across, and the final product follows four themes of: Health implications of taking drugs; public order offences; drink driving; and emotional reliance on alcohol.

The project was a difficult one which required a great deal of work and commitment from the students, who had a range of backgrounds and abilities.

The success of the video is such that it is now not only available on YouTube, but has been adopted for use by the NHS and is shown in the A&E departments of a number of hospitals.

The group were joint second prizewinners and received a cheque for £250



**ABOVE: The year-8 group from Maesteg Comprehensive.**

**PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN**



**ABOVE: Mayors from Bridgend County Borough and Pencoed attended.**



**ABOVE: Penny Roberts and Roy Noble of the BBC with the High Sheriff.**

## Rotary Junior Youth speakers inspire audience in Bridgend



**Lee Page of Sinclair Motors presents Josie Davies from Croesty Primary School with the winner's shield.**

**THE Rotary Club of Bridgend held its annual Junior Youth Speaks competition on March 14 at Maes yr Haul School Broadlands, the winners of last year's competition.**

Speakers from eight schools in the Bridgend area took part in the competition, which was well supported by parents, teachers, grandparents, siblings and friends.

The topics, chosen by the young speakers themselves, ranged from 'Children Should be Seen and not Heard' comparing schooldays in Victorian times to current day, 'Girls Rugby' and the importance of girls playing rugby, through to 'Life Somewhere Else' a thought-provoking talk on the possibility of life on other planets.

Third prizewinner in the competition was Rhiannon Harries from Maes yr Haul Primary

School, whose speech 'Use It or Lose It' focused on the use of the Welsh language.

The second prize went to Auttaya Tippet from Ffaldau Primary School, who gave a persuasive speech on the need for trains to return to the Garw Valley, which was entitled 'We Want Our Trains Back'.

The overall winner was Josie Davies from Croesty Primary School who gave an inspirational, enthusiastic talk on Dame Tanni Grey Thompson. Mr Lee Page from Sinclair Motors, sponsors of the Winner's Shield, presented Josie with the trophy for her to take back to Croesty Primary.

Jean Davies, chairman of the judging panel, commented that the standard of each of the speakers was exceptional, especially given that they were only ten or 11 years of age, and that all the children taking part should be proud of their achievement.

## Friends remember 'generous' woman with charity events

**FRIENDS and colleagues of Carol Bailey, who sadly died last September, have arranged two charity events to raise money for Y Bwthyn Newydd, at the Princess of Wales Hospital, where Carol was treated.**

Carol, who joined the NHS in 1980, worked as an administrative support officer at Glanrhyd Hospital, and before that she was a receptionist at Caswell Clinic.

On Friday, May 11, a charity night will be held at the Great Western Club, Coity Road, Bridgend. There will be live entertainment, disco, a charity auction and a raffle. Tickets cost £5.

Those who fancy a challenge are also invited to join 'Carol's Crusaders' on Saturday, June 2, for a sponsored abseil at Bridgend Fire Tower.

For further details on these events or to make a donation, contact either Shannon Evans, on 07858 719856

or 01656 753033 or Mike Sully, on 07789 793172

A close friend and colleague, Diane Paul, said: "If I was asked to describe Carol, I would say she was the most giving person I have ever known."

"I miss her every day and am constantly being reminded of her generosity both at home and in work."

"I know Carol would have supported these charity events. She was constantly praising the good works they do during her illness. It is such a worthy cause"

Dr Sue Morgan - Macmillan Consultant in Palliative Care said: "On behalf of the Y

Bwthyn Newydd, I would like to thank you for thinking of us and helping our service."

"All proceeds will be put towards benefiting patient care, either as inpatients in Y Bwthyn Newydd, or within their own homes."

"I hope everyone who attends enjoys the entertainment you are providing and wish the volunteers who are abseiling, all the best of luck!"

Y Bwthyn Newydd provides specialist palliative care to patients with life limiting illnesses, and support for their complex physical, psychological, emotional and social needs.

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Celebrating the site's transformation

## SITE OF THE 'TIN SHOPS' IS TRANSFORMED AT CAERAU

A PATCH of land in Caerau that had become an overgrown eyesore and a target for anti-social behaviour has been transformed.

A site off Caerau Road, near Maesteg, was once a railway station on the Maesteg to Cymmer line, the site of the cenotaph and, of course, the famous collection of 'Tin Shops'.

By the start of the 21st century, the station and all traces of the railway had gone, the memorial moved to another site and the last of the shops had closed.

Last week, the community came together to celebrate a joint regeneration project led by Bridgend County Borough Council to restore it to its former glory.

Weeds and run down buildings have been replaced by a series of brightly coloured buildings, landscaping and even the return of a traditional post-box.

A council spokesperson said: "In a tribute to Caerau's former Tin Shops, the community itself has created a series of hand-made tiles which have been built into the design, each one celebrating one of the former shops or local traditions."

"Working with Communities First and artist Anne Gibbs, young people from Caerau Youth Club and local residents did their own local research and spoke to those who could remember the Tin Shop days to ensure that Caerau's history and traditions were reflected in the new development."

"Their tiles remember Bessie Morgan the Draper, Ernie Davies the newsagent and Isaac the Butcher to name a few – as well as a plaque dedicated to Sidoli's ice cream parlour. Better associated with nearby Porthcawl, the residents discovered that Sidoli's actually started life in Caerau."

Two thirds of the £200,000 funding came from the Welsh Government's western valleys regeneration area scheme.

Coun Phil White, Bridgend County Borough Council's cabinet member for communities, said: "The transformation here is stunning and a credit to all involved: Bridgend County Borough Council, the architect, the contractors, the Welsh Government and, of course, the residents themselves who have taken such ownership of this and reclaimed this space for their community."

"Together we have created something very special – a place which celebrates a proud past while securing something for future generations. And one that makes Caerau a more attractive place to live and do business with."



Johnny Flaherty and Nicky Kearney from contractors Neol Fitzpatrick

## Quiz League round-up

**THE final league matches of the season took place on March 19 with all promotion and relegation issues already settled.**

In Division 1, the leaders Llangewydd Arms finished with a big win over Six Bells by 57 points to 28 but the next two teams were beaten. Oldcastle A lost away to Crown Inn A 42-38, and Tyrisha Nomads went down at home to Tyrisha Royals by 41 to 26 in a match that was very close throughout.

The Royals confirmed fourth spot with Mackworth Arms who had a bye this week. In the remaining game the two relegated sides fought it out and Cabo Roche lost to Laleston Inn A 45-25.

In Division 2, Tondur Railway Club finished on 100 per cent by beating the other promoted team Pheasant Poachers 45-40. Laleston Inn B completed their fixtures with a 46-40 home win versus Pheasant Gamekeepers to clinch

third place, followed by Crown Inn B who were 44-39 winners at Oldcastle B.

Then came Greenmeadow, who ensured Pyle RFC stayed in last place when beating them by 52-36. After Greenmeadow are Oldcastle B, Coychurch Wanderers, who had a bye, and the Gamekeepers.

There are just the KO Cup and Plate finals left and after the summer break is the 40th consecutive season of the league, which could be a national record.

**Here are your four-for-thought:**

1. What two-word term is used for a maximum speed that can be reached by a falling object achieved when the air resistance is equal to the force of gravity?

2. In the opera Porgy and Bess, what song does Sporting Life sing which casts doubt on the literal truth of the Bible?

3. Which horse won the Derby and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in 2009?

4. The name of which West African country comes from the Portuguese for 'Lion Mountain'?

**ALAN RUDGE (for Quiz League)**

Answers:  
1. Terminal velocity.  
2. It ain't necessarily so.  
3. Silver Star.  
4. Sierra Leone.

## EASTER COFFEE

**NEWTON Institute, Porthcawl, will hold a coffee morning on March 31 at 10.30am; admission 50p, raffle, cake stall, gift stall, tombola and Easter bonnet parade and competition for adults and children. All welcome.**

## NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of THE GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



## Glades

**THE Glades is a group of eight ladies who believe in helping local charities and meet in Aberkenfig Conservative Club on Tuesday between 8pm and 10pm.**

The Glades is a women's organisation similar to the male Buffs and new members are welcome.

On Tuesday, April 17 at approximately 7.30pm, it will be donating large sums of money to seven different worthwhile causes.

## Pen y Fai

### Women's Institute

**PRESIDENT Jean Griffiths opened the recent meeting with greetings to the Birthday Belles.**

The speaker for the evening, J Waterman, who was to have given a talk on the prison service, unfortunately had been admitted to hospital and could not attend.

Members had thoroughly enjoyed two shows in Cardiff, namely *Birds of a Feather* and *the King and I* this month.

The members took part in a quiz on the subject of water, and then had two games of bingo with Easter eggs as prizes. There was a raffle, Angela Smith winning the first prize and Ann Yeo the second.

Members discussed the demise of Cefn Cribwr WI and agreed to join with Aberkenfig WI in their link group, as a number live in Aberkenfig and it would involve less travelling.

Angela Smith then spoke to members on future events, including a trip to Birmingham to see the Christmas lights, with a diversion via the Christmas market in Ludlow and *Phantom of the Opera* in December at the Millennium Centre, Cardiff.

The next meeting will be on Monday, April 16 at 7.30pm in the Pen-y-Fai C of E primary school hall. Visitors and new members welcome.

## Good wishes

**BRIAN CARL, a tutor in line dancing, whose efforts with the classes raised thousands of pounds for charities such as the Heart Foundation and Alzheimer's Society, is in Morriston Hospital. God wishes for a full recovery.**

**Bridgend U3A** THIS thriving charity which has a membership of approximately 160, recently held a 12th anniversary lunch in the Grove, Porthcawl in which 69 members took part.

The meal was excellent and was followed by a play by Sheila Lewis, based on the Rhonda

valley in the 1950s.

The U3A meets in the hall of the Institute for the Deaf in Coychurch Road, Bridgend on the third Monday of the month at 2pm; visitors are welcome.

## Bridgend's junior games

**THERE was great excitement among children taking part in the games when following Wales's Grand Slam win, coach Warren Gatland accompanied by former scrum half Rob Howley, caused a surprise when they came on stage to announce the opening of Bridgend's junior games.**

The games organised by Bridgend CBC active young people's department in Bridgend Recreation Centre involved over 1,000 youngsters from 24 different primary schools in the area.

To mark Olympic year, every child received a medal for taking part and representing their school and the winners of the individual tournaments received gold, silver and bronze medals.

## Pupils praised

**MARTIN GRIFFITHS, headteacher of Tyndyrheol Primary, has praised pupils who took part in the recent inter-schools cross-country race at Cynffig. A number achieved personal best times. The pupils involved were: Amber Croale, Ioan Davies, Eflon Deere, Kai Lewis, Rhodri O'Brien and Jake Whiffield.**

**Tondu primary** MISS Watson has been offered promotion at another school, and will be leaving after Easter.

She will be returning for the first school week after the holiday to help the children settle, as Miss Marchant returns from a secondment to take over.

I would like to wish Miss Watson every success. I helped her as a volunteer at the school for a while, and found her a very diligent teacher.

There will be Easter bonnet parades on

Friday, March 30 at Heol Persondy at 2pm and Meadow Street at 2.30pm.

Pupils are asked to bring their Easter bonnets into school, with house points being awarded.

## Panto auditions

**MAESTEG Amateur Operatic Society is planning a pantomime in November at Maesteg town hall, based on the story of Cinderella and is looking for people over 16 to play the principal characters.**

Auditions will be held in St Michaels and All Angels church in Maesteg on April 14 from 12 noon. Contact Sarah Thomas on 07922 218462.

**Carers' centre** BRIDGEND Carer's Centre at 87 Park Street, Bridgend, CF31 4AZ (telephone 01656 658479), has a series of events planned over the next few days.

Tomorrow (Friday, March 30) the staff have given themselves a sporting challenge: They intend to walk the 10 miles from Blaengarw to Bridgend town centre, which they hope will raise much-needed funds for the centre.

The funds will be used to organise additional activities and opportunities. If any readers are interested in sponsoring the walkers please phone Helen on the above number.

## Charity events

**BETWS primary school teachers and school pupils are organising a 'Souper' soup day at the school tomorrow, March 30, to which everyone is welcome. All money raised will be donated to the Christian Aid charity.**

In support of the Christian Aid Charity, members of Aberkenfig Bible Church, Heol Persondy, are organising a 'Hunger' lunch consisting of a bowl of soup, bread and a Welsh cake on Saturday, March 31 between 12 noon and 1.15pm.

The lunch costs £2.50 and money raised will be donated to the charity.

## Superfast broadband in county borough?

**Network upgrades are providing Bridgend county borough with some of the highest superfast broadband coverage in Wales, it was claimed last week.**

On behalf of the communications industry, Openreach is carrying out a £2.5 billion upgrade of the country's optical fibre cable network through which tens of millions of calls, downloads and web searches are made each day, a council spokesperson stated.

As a result, homes and businesses in up to 70 per cent of the county borough were able to take advantage of superfast broadband services, including download speeds of 40Mbit/s and uploads of 10Mbit/s.

## Who wants to build what and where in the county borough?

Mr George Martin – 67 Eleanor Close, Pencoed – Crown reduce two oak trees by approximately 4 metres.

Bridgend CBC – 1 Heol Penderyn, Brackla – Cut back overhanging branches of two beech trees to rear.

Mr John Evans – Rear 3/4 Meadow View, Blackmill, Bridgend – Crown lifting of Hawthorn and Sycamore trees to rear of Meadow View.

Y ddireidolaeth A ddoldai Cymru – Bethania Chapel, Bethania Street, Maesteg – Change of use to include D2, to use chapel vestry area as a boxing club.

Canola House Residential Home – Canola House, Heol Canola, Sarn – Single storey extension to kitchen and dining room. Mr Howard John – 96 Suffolk Place, Porthcawl – Rear single storey extension and associated works.

Mr and Mrs D Scott – Adjoining 9 Monks Close, Pyle – Proposed semi detached house. Mr Jamie Evans – First Floor, Co-op Store, Lias Road, Porthcawl –

Change of use of the former college to a ladies gym.

Mr and Mrs Smith – 20 Church View, Laleston – Convert garage into living accommodation with addition of bay window.

Hi Tide Inn – Mackworth Road, Porthcawl – Extend existing patio area to comprise of a new decked area with associated lighting and handrails.

Mr and Mrs P Cain – 1 Chestnut Bush, Broadlands – Timber summer house to rear garden. Persimmon Homes Limited – 47 Porth y Castell, Parc Derwen – Rear conservatory.

Mr Keir Beard – 62 Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend – Construct single storey conservatory and enclosing of first floor balcony to rear of property.

Mr J Godbeer – Fairways Hotel, West Drive, Porthcawl – Proposed single storey orangery and entrance lobby to south (front) elevation and internal alterations.

Mr Anthony Smith – 15/16 High Street,

Ogmore Vale – Change of use from A2-A3 betting shop to cafe. Persimmon Homes East Wales – Land parcel R5/R25 Parc Derwen, Bridgend – Minor replan of plots 1, 2 and 3.

Mrs Jones – 4 Woodland Way, Sarn – Conservatory to south elevation.

Mrs G Clatworthy – 13 St James Crescent, Pyle – Shower room adaptation and external ramp and front door.

HD Ltd – Victoria House, 38-40 Dunraven Place, Bridgend – Proposed extension, refurbishment and new gates.

Mr D Dudley – 87 The Avenue, Pontycymer – Extension on land, formally 89 The Avenue to provide play room/bedroom and store.

Mrs Pauline Carter – 8 Oaklands Avenue, Bridgend – Single storey rear extension and alterations. Dr Rahman Mafiz – The Parc, Litchard Hill, Litchard – Outline application for the erection of two four-bed dwellings.



# MAENDY'S ROAD TO WALES FINALS OF YFC PANTO COMPETITION

**THE pantomime phenomenon that has been the focal point for Maendy YFC in recent months, has been a real achievement for the club.**

Preparation for the annual YFC stage competition kicked off in December with the unveiling of a home-written script by Richard Harris entitled 'A Hot Pot of Ahji-Bhaji', inviting you to be swept away on a magical carpet ride to enjoy the vibrant sights and sounds of this original recipe.

It was beautifully prepared by Richard Western and served by the cast members ranging from ages 12 to 26.

So the performances commenced; first stop was February 16, which saw an extremely well supported dress rehearsal at Barry Memorial Hall. A huge thank you to the Glamorgan Hunt for warming up the crowd and providing their support on a memorable night at the Memorial Hall.

The next stop was The Princess Royal Theatre in Port Talbot, which saw the seven YFC clubs in Glamorgan go head to head for the opportunity to represent the county at the Wales finals.

Three nights of highly entertaining scenes full of dames, ugly sisters and villains provided a successful weekend, making the judge's decision a difficult one.

Maendy's efforts were rewarded in the form of three trophies: Ieuan Rosser winning best actor; the award for best technical production and, most importantly, the winning shield for the best performance.

Congratulations to everyone who was involved, both on and off the stage, it really was a team effort!

The journey did not stop there though! The cast and entourage took the show on the road, travelling to Llandudno to challenge our counterparts from across Wales. Venue Cymru hosted this year's Wales competition on March 10 and 11, providing a fantastic platform and facilities to act upon.

As always at Wales level, the standard was extremely high and the audience enjoyed some breathtaking performances.

Judge Mike Kaiser commented on how creative and original the script was, as well as the imaginatively set stage and scenery, all of which complemented the performance of a cast that any amateur dramatic society would be extremely proud of, let alone a Young Farmers Club.

The results were out, Maendy achieved best technical award; Ieuan Rosser was nominated for most promising actor, while Christina Thomas scooped the most promising actress award.

There were just two points between first and second place, with Maendy YFC finishing runners-up to a deserving Builth Wells team. Glamorgan would like to wish all the best to Builth at the national finals in April.

The cast were electric on stage and gave it their all, coming second to the reigning national champions is not a result to be disappointed with.

It was a fantastic team building opportunity, while raising the profile of Glamorgan



ABOVE: Members of the ensemble.

Young Farmers and showcasing the talents that young people and the YFC organisation has to offer.

Look out for us on the S4C coverage 'Ffermio Ifanc O'r Venue' on the 'Catch Up' section of their website.

All performances from the Welsh Finals

(seven English speaking and six Welsh speaking) will be available in full on the website shortly.

A special thank you to all the parents and supporters who travelled to Llandudno to cheer the team on and

members for their exemplary behaviour and attitude over the weekend.

For more information about Maendy YFC please visit [www.maendy.btck.co.uk](http://www.maendy.btck.co.uk) HANNAH LEWIS



Mark Edwards (Vizier s Henchman), Tom Rees (Chief Vizier) and Harry Thomas (Vizier s Henchman).



ABOVE: Cast members.



Ieuan Rosser (club chairman) as Dame Betty Bhuna.



Heather Jarvis as Good Fairy Harmonia, and Christina Thomas as Bad Fairy Draconia.

## 'Grow your own' pioneering project in the borough

A PIONEERING new project aims to help rural communities grow their own food.

Organised by reach, Bridgend County Borough Council's rural regeneration initiative, the Community Foodie project nurtures skills, supports healthy lifestyles and brings people of all ages together while raising awareness about the wider sustainability, environmental and health benefits of growing your own food.

"Recent research shows that allotment gardening can offer more health benefits in later life, such as reduced stress and healthy ageing, compared to indoor activities," a spokesman stated.

"The project is offering budding growers a range of support, including help with identifying suitable

growing sites and styles, legal and technical advice and access to a range of tools as well as financial assistance to get them up and running."

Community Foodie is a partnership project between the Vale of Glamorgan, BCBC and Torfaen Councils. It aims to help community groups and individuals across the three counties.

Wendy Mackay, Bridgend's Rural Regeneration Officer for Community Food, added: "By delivering this project to rural parts of the county borough, we hope to see a real change in how some communities come together to grow their own food and manage their land. We look forward to seeing people getting together to learn new skills and sharing achievements while enjoying their new produce."



ABOVE: The final pose.

## Maesteg site sale is welcomed by BCBC

THE former Budelpack COSi site in Ewenny Road Industrial Estate, Maesteg, has been sold to a new owner – the Pontardawe Coal and Metals Company.

The announcement has been welcomed by Bridgend County Borough Council.

Coun Phil White, cabinet member for communities, said: "This is excellent

news and is something that the local community has been waiting to hear for a long time. The council and its partners may have had limited powers regarding the privately-owned part of the estate, but we have been working behind the scenes to help bring the matter to a satisfactory conclusion and to protect the interests and well-being of the local community.

"As BCBC owns the adjoining plot of land, we are looking forward to working closely with the new owners to jointly develop both sites, and will be offering our support and assistance as we seek to regenerate this part of the Llynfi Valley," he commented.

The site at Ewenny Road Industrial Estate was previously owned by Condor Properties Ltd.

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## Glan yr Afon refurbishment will help those with dementia

**WORK** is going ahead on developing new and improved services for people with dementia at Glan yr Afon residential care home in Ynysawdre, BCBC reports.

The home provides residential, day and respite care services for older people, and has increasingly focused on dementia care over the last two years.

Now refurbishment work is set to take place which will provide beds for 30 people with dementia and enable the residents to enjoy greater access and freedom of movement around the home and its gardens.

The work will also establish special 'quiet' areas, a colour-coded

living environment that will help residents find their way around the home, an enhanced dining room, a new visitor area and other new improved facilities.

Coun Lyn Morgan, cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "The refurbishment work at Glan yr Afon will help provide a safe, secure managed living environment for some of the most vulnerable members of our community."

Council leader Mel Nott added: "With skilled staff on hand to provide expert care, the refurbishment plans form an important part of our commitment towards modernising adult social care services in Bridgend county borough."

The work is expected to be completed later this summer.

## Porthcawl Townswomen's Guild news

During the March meeting, chairman Diana Richardson welcomed everyone, including two new members.

Details of the summer outing to Dewstow and entertainment plans at the end of May for visiting ladies from Mansfield were outlined.

Flowers were presented to Kath Davies, to thank her for all her hard work as a committee member, and also to president Gwen Watts.

We then welcomed our new president Olwen Hall for 2012-2013.

Members were then given a brief profile

by Rotarian Sandra Townsend of 'Literacy in Africa', which involves Rotarians providing plastic boxes containing stationery items that are sent to needy schools in Africa.

We will be donating to these in the near future.

The meeting ended with Crug Lloyd Evans reciting a poem about her close friend Betty Smith, and also a very funny poem about herself.

The next meeting at All Saints Church Hall will be on

Wednesday, April 11 at 2pm, when Mr David Allen will speak on 'Trekking to Everest Base Camp'.

SM



**ABOVE:** Deputy Mayor Coun Marlene Thomas, with pupils from Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, Youth Mayor Abigail Richards, Children's Commissioner for Wales Keith Towler, corporate director — children Hilary Anthony and cabinet member for children and young people, Coun Alana Davies.

## 'Say no to the school bullies' – pupils' call

**PUPILS** and young people from schools and youth groups across Bridgend county borough, have called for zero tolerance on bullying.

Organised by the council's youth service, a 'Bridgend says End Bullying' conference gave young people the opportunity to take part in workshops and learn what to do if they ever experience bullying.

Coun Alana Davies, BCBC cabinet member for children and young people, said: "By raising awareness of bullying and oppressive behaviour, we can really help to give young people the courage and confidence to speak out."

"Bridgend County Borough Council is committed to ensuring our schools are happy and secure places in which to learn."

"Events like this are a great way to help those who have been bullied, or those who know others who may need support. I hope today's conference will encourage young people to ask for help, and not to suffer in silence."

Speaking at the event, Children's Commissioner for Wales, Keith Towler, said: "I want to congratulate Bridgend County Borough Council's youth service for hosting such a successful event."

"It was a real pleasure for me to spend some time with the young people who were there, listening to their experiences and powerful messages, and reminding them of their right to be kept safe."

"I wish the 'Bridgend says End Bullying' project every success."

## Loss of the monologue

NEWS FROM MERTHYR WI

**PRESIDENT Margaret Batten opened the March meeting and welcomed our speaker for the evening, Pamela Robson, whose topic was 'Monologues and Merriment'.**

Monologues used to be very popular, especially amongst artists like Joyce Grenfell, Stanley Holloway and Noel Coward.

Although not fashionable today, this form of entertainment was clever and very funny and showed a superb use of words and language.

She recited and sang examples of songs and monologues, ending up with an old favourite, Gracie Fields. Her talk brought back many memories for us.

Several members went on the theatre trip to the Millennium Centre to see *Lord of the Dance*, a masterly orchestrated combination of precision dancing, lighting and pyrotechnics, and we all

thoroughly enjoyed and admired the speed and liveliness of the dancing.

In March, we held our link meeting, when members from Colwyn, Southerndown and Penllyn WIs joined us for the meeting.

In the first half, we were entertained by Glenda Clwyd, who talked about her life as a harpist and demonstrated the versatility of the instrument by selecting a wide range of music, ranging from *The Flower Duet* to Welsh folk music.

Following a break for refreshments, we enjoyed a lively game of 'Beetle', which Niki Hughes organised and compered. Most of us had not played this game since our childhood but it certainly brought out our competitive streak.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 4, at Corn Town Community Hall, when the topic will be the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic.

Fiona Cater

## HERITAGE FACELIFT PLAN FOR PORTHCAWL

**A TOWNSCAPE** heritage initiative is being planned in Porthcawl (THI).

BCBC says it has submitted an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for an initial amount of £532,000 to set up the scheme, which will focus on the town's harbour, breakwater and historic square.

"If the funding bid is successful, the THI scheme will enable key historic buildings in the area to be repaired and restored to their former architectural glory."

"This would include the Jennings building, which would offer a flagship project designed to attract developers and occupiers," a council spokesman reported.

"The scheme will also contribute towards public realm enhancements

and help to identify sustainable new uses for vacant buildings as part of the wider Porthcawl Regeneration Strategy.

"With the total first phase cost of the Porthcawl THI scheme estimated to be £1.45m, the proposals are currently being considered by the Heritage Lottery Fund. If successful, the council hopes that the Porthcawl THI could begin in 2013."

BCBC launched its first THI project in Bridgend town centre to transform Dunraven Place and has won awards – including International Green Apple status.

A similar scheme is also running in Maesteg town centre, where it is operating alongside the ongoing regeneration project.

## Sweet Trixi pines for love

*The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre.*  
**Telephone: 01656 725219**

A spokeswoman for the Dogs Trust reports: Trixi is an 11-year-old cross-breed who came to the rehoming centre through no fault of her own.

She is a very sweet and loving girl, who is happy and confident in most situations. She can live with young children, although may prefer a quieter home, and also gets on with other dogs.

She is housetrained, and fine to be left for a few hours. She loves nothing more than a cuddle, and will roll onto her back for a belly-rub from anyone!

She is getting stressed in kennels, and will make a perfect pet for a family. If you are interested in offering Trixi a home, call 01656 725219, or pop into Dogs Trust, Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend. We are open Tuesday-Sunday, 12 noon-4pm. From April 4, we will begin late night opening until 8pm on Wednesday's only for the summer months.



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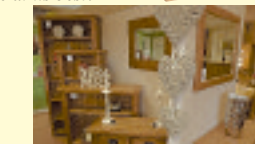
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**BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon continues to complete Comres parliamentary**

questionnaires to earn money that is donated to local voluntary organisations.

She said: "This time round, it was the Bridgend Parkinson's Group that I arranged to receive the cheque. I have known Alun Morgan, the branch secretary of the group, for many years, and I visited him at home, where he was surprised and delighted to receive the cheque."

"I hope that this cheque will help towards the Bridgend Parkinson's Group's next event or social activity."

The Bridgend Parkinson's group meet in the Llys Faen Hall in Quarella Road, Bridgend every second Wednesday of the month from 7pm to 9pm.

Contact Alun for more details on 01656 663284, or email alunmorgan@btinternet.co.uk. More information can be found at: www.parkinsons.org.



Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon donates her latest cheque to Bridgend Parkinson's group branch secretary, Alun Morgan.

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# Adults-only Panto in the Pub a sell-out success!

FOR the second year running, Panto in the Pub at Ye Olde Wine House (The Tap) at Pyle, was a sell-out success!

This year's adults-only production of *Snow White* raised £550 for Y Bont, the charity which provides care for babies and children with disabilities in the Bridgend area.

Written by Linda Knight, who also narrated the performances, and loosely based on the original Grimm's fairy tale, the 14-strong cast, led the audience through this modern day version of *Snow White* as The Tap was transformed from pub to theatre for the two nights.

The baddie, Wicked Queen (Anne Beatty) made an extremely effective and convincing evil villain, while Nanny Flo, *Snow White*'s nurse, (Linda Williams) proved to be a comical and sprightly old dame whose loyalty to *Snow White* shone through right to the end.

Hugh Beatty doubled up commendably as both the King and the Ghost, while newcomer Jane Greenslade played the roles of the Good Queen, and also a singing scene changer, alongside Sarah Tilley, with confidence and enthusiasm.

The wicked Queen's Henchman, Jordan Skidmore, in his gothic black leather outfit, provided a lively diversion for the ladies in the audience, while the Magic Mirror (Sian Jones), complete with red lights and feathers, was an ideal foil for the evil Queen.

With a slap of her thigh, Andrea Jenkins as the Prince, once again proved she has a fine singing voice and provided the perfect consort for the ever-changing multi-talented *Snow White*!

And, finally, the dwarfs! Yes, there were seven... Dumpty (Stephan Jones), Humpy



THE FINALE!



Nanny Flo and the Prince.



The King, Queen and baby Snow White.

(Owen David), Trumpy (Michelle Knight) who also each operated three life sized puppets, Stumpy, Scrumpy, and Jumpy! And lastly, making her debut at 59 as the outstandingly funny and smallest dwarf, Twp-a-Lwp was Enid Smith – a natural comedienne and one to watch for future productions!

Thanks must go to landlord, Stephan Jones for supplying the cast with refreshments behind the scenes and during rehearsals, and for the continuing support by The Tap for local charities.

Many thanks, also to those who provided sponsorship, donations and assisted in many other ways with the production.



The Wicked Queen with her henchman.

## Raising awareness of mental health issues

**FREE training programmes to promote positive emotional health and wellbeing across Bridgend borough have been arranged by BAVO (Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations).**

One in four people experience mental health problems at some time in their lives.

The Siaradwn Ni – Lets Talk project is a ground-breaking programme funded by the Big Lottery, which raises awareness of mental health.

A spokesperson said: "The new Siaradwn Ni training brochure for

April 2012 – March 2013, features accredited training and informal activities aimed at learning non-judgemental listening and communication skills for helping and supporting anyone at risk of suicide; and for young people who need help to boost their confidence and self-esteem through fun-filled activities and participation.

"Available to anyone working or living in the county boroughs of Bridgend, Neath or Port Talbot, the free of charge courses and activities are arranged by Mind Cymru, The Bridge Mentoring Plus Scheme, Yellow Wales and Youth

Works. Courses and activities include suicide intervention skills training, peer mentoring, understanding and handling relationships, getting and giving support, listening skills training, emotional health programmes, participation opportunities – including indoor and out door activities to boost self-esteem – and vital life learning skills.

For further details, call 01656 810400 or email: [stuartburge-jones@bavo.org.uk](mailto:stuartburge-jones@bavo.org.uk) Alternatively, you can download our new brochure at [www.siaradwnni.org.uk](http://www.siaradwnni.org.uk).

# Women's World Day of Prayer at Kenfig Hill



**EIGHT Christian churches from Kenfig Hill and Cornelly joined together for the Women's World Day of Prayer at St Joseph of Arimathea Church, Kenfig Hill.**

The theme was 'Let Justice Prevail' and had been prepared by the Christian women of Malaysia.

The church was decorated in bright colours, with beautiful flowers and tropical fruit to reflect Malaysia's biodiversity.

Each member of the congregation was given a mini placard reading 'Let Justice Prevail'. Ebenezer Methodist Church in North Cornelly provided the music.

During the reflection, the congregation were asked to write on post-it notes what they found unjust in our society, and



Flowers and fruit on display.

how they personally could help to change it.

There should be many more letters to MPs and AMs as a result! Also fairly-traded goods should be better supported, as well as charity shops and charities providing clean water in developing countries.

The importance of prayer was emphasised, as well as personal

responsibility. Over £90 was collected for WWDP, which provides grants towards Bible translation, among other projects.

The afternoon was concluded in truly ecumenical style, with ladies from Pysgah Baptist Chapel providing refreshments and the use of their facilities.

MW

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To register you will need: Registration with the GTCW or have CACHE level 1-4 or a degree and have a minimum of 6 months experience with children in a classroom setting within the last 4 years.

To arrange a local interview call 029 2049 4560

### Multi Award Winning Teaching Agency



The Wicked Queen with Twp-a-Lwp.



# YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**River trek**  
RIVERS – As part of the year-1 curriculum studying rivers, children at Mynydd Cynffig Infants School followed the River Omore from its source high up in the Garw Valley, through Bridgend Town, before finally arriving at the rivermouth at Omore-By-Sea.

The children had a fantastic day and thoroughly enjoyed learning about the wonderful world about them.

**Sport Relief** – A fabulous time was had by all last Friday when the children dressed up in sporty clothing to enjoy a range of sporting activities for 'Sport Relief Day', and at the same time raising money for a very worthwhile cause.

The school raised a magnificent £180 selling sports bands and £124.75 thanks to some generous donations.

**Painting day** – There was a very successful painting day at the school when all the children, parents and grandparents were invited to go along and spruce up the school with a lick of paint. The school grounds have now been dramatically transformed, which will greatly benefit the children.

**Show** – The school was treated to a fantastic show from the 'Image Theatre Group' when they watched 'Stig of the Dump' last week with children from Reception to year-2.

Many children became actors and actresses, with everyone else becoming superb singers. It was an enjoyable afternoon and they are now looking forward to their next visit.

**Easter service** – An Easter service will be



## COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by **Richard Sims**

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Mobile: 07802 439679

E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

held tomorrow (Friday March 30) for classes 5 and 6 at 10am. Parents of the pupils in these classes are welcome to attend. Following this there will be a Easter treasure hunt from 11am to 4pm.

### Wellbeing Centre

**Social afternoon** - There will be a social afternoon in the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill from 1pm to 5pm when everyone is welcome to enjoy a relaxed afternoon in a friendly environment or join in activities.

### Shout

**KENFIG Hill Shout, the voice of the older community, will be holding their next meeting at the Barnyard, Pyle Cross, Pyle on Tuesday April 3 from 2pm to 3pm.**

There will be a talk by a representative from Social Services. Kenfig Hill Shout is a non-political group made up of people over 50 who wish to make a difference for their local community.

If you want to help go along, or for further information regarding this group; contact Stan Rumble on 01656 741203.

### Music For Glaze

A CHARITY afternoon of music is

being held by former Welsh international rugby player Ray Giles at Kenfig Hill RFC on Sunday April 8.

Kick-off is at 2.30pm and all proceeds are in aid of Glaze Prostate Cancer at the Princess of Wales Hospital.

Entry is just £5 and you can buy a ticket from the clubhouse or pay on the door.

Enjoy a great afternoon's entertainment and at the same time, help a worthwhile cause.

### Pupil's awards

Congratulations to the following pupils at Mynydd Cynffig Junior School who were nominated for impressing the staff last week: Cerys Brinkworth – class 1, Ellie Griffiths – class 2, Ola Kruk – class 3, Samuel Paul – class 4, Abbie Walker – class 5, Eryn-Mae Franklyn – class 6 and Connor McCarthy – class 7.

Congratulations also go to Charlotte Edmunds, George Buckley, Grace Griffiths, Ewan Davies, Jake Thomas, Megan Stevens, Lauren Cooper, Cerys Phillips, Anwen Sleath and Charlotte Roberts for their excellent behaviour during lunchtimes last week. As a reward, they will be joining Mr Goldsworthy for lunch. Year-5 Olympic



ABOVE: Children at the source of the river Omore.

experience – Last week, year-5 entered the 2012 Year-5 Olympics in Bridgend.

Every pupil took part in an event or was involved in taking photographs and making a report.

The school were chosen to represent France. The pupils had to research facts on France and make a banner to represent that country.

Teams for basketball, tag rugby, girls' and boys' football and athletics were chosen.

The school faced some tough competition from many of the Bridgend primary schools who were present.

All the teams did well; however, congratulations to the basketball team who gained a gold medal.

Mr Goldsworthy has thanked Mr Pedler, Mrs Jones and Mrs Fyfe for the hard work they put in with the pupils.

**New Directions tournament** – Last week, the school was represented in the six-a-side football tournament held at Sophia Gardens, Cardiff by both a boys' and girls' team.

The girls were represented by Anwen Sleath, Megan Stevens, Senem Akpinar, Jade Walker, Kate Thomas, Jasmin Delbridge, Elisha Owen, Cerys Phillips, Menna Jones, Kaisha Hughes and Lois Flower.

The boys were represented by Luke Dingle, Phillip Burnell, Leon Jones, Callum Brennan, Calum Lewis, Jack Underhill, Connor Farnham, Kyle Williams, Cameron Jenkins, Ben Evans and Bradley Jenkins.

Both sides were runners up in their groups and were considered unlucky not to go through to the semi-final, losing out on goal difference. However, it was a glorious day and everyone enjoyed themselves.

**Guided reading** – Most parents will be aware by now that the school is focussing on the reading standards of every pupil, with all classes in the process of working towards a 'guided reading' approach.

The school is hoping to purchase new materials in order to help deliver this approach.



Mynydd Cynffig Infants with the theatre group. LEFT to RIGHT: Ffion Harman, Seren Buckley, Ellesse Llewellyn, San Flanagan, Caitlin Fallow, Madison Llewellyn, Ellis Peart and Matthew Watkins.



ABOVE: Children at the mouth of the river in Omore-By-Sea.



Ffion Harman and mum.



Chloe Tozer and gran.

## £120,000 grant to relocate library

**PONTYCYMER library is to move from its current location to the Garw Valley Leisure Centre thanks to a £120,000 grant.**

The CyMAL grant was secured by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and is available for museums, archives and libraries to promote and protect culture in Wales. It will be supported by funding from BCBC, which says the re-location is expected to take place by spring

2013. It will enable the council to offer local people a larger library with an increased level of resources similar to the popular and successful facilities that are currently available at the Omore Valley Life Centre.

"As well as a larger, more modern library space, residents will also benefit from access to an increased numbers of books, improved IT facilities, free WiFi, an interactive learning suite and other resources. With plenty of free car parking already available at the centre, the new library will be

more accessible to the local community and will offer extended opening hours," a spokeswoman said.

It is hoped that the new library will deliver similar benefits for Garw users as the combined library and leisure facility at Omore.

In Omore, the CyMAL-funded state-of-the-art interactive facilities have also led to increased usage at the centre for children and families and supported improvements in children's literacy and numeracy by organising fun and educational services.

The overall cost of this will be close to £3,000 and in order to maintain all other areas of the curriculum as well, it is hoping to fund part of these costs through a sponsored event.

After Easter, the school will run a sponsored 'Olympic' event, when every class will have a challenge, with the opportunity to raise money if they achieve their challenge.

It is also hoped that parents will be willing to help something that will have a direct effect on the learning of their children.



Children about to put their little boats in the river in the Garw Valley.



# Victim of 'merciless' attack feigned death to save his own life

A YOUNG man who was attacked by a gang of six, one of whom was armed with a golf club, could have died, said a judge at Cardiff Crown Court.

Aaron O'Mahoney was struck unconscious and was only spotted in the street five hours after the

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

incident, said prosecutor David Elias.

Lyndon Pryce (26) of Tonna Road, Caerau, and Nathan Davies (22) of Brodawl, Bridgend, were each jailed for 11 years.

Each had pleaded guilty to a charge of wounding with intent.

Doctors at the Princess of Wales

Hospital who treated the injured man discovered a fracture to a bone in his spine and a fractured ankle.

Mr Elias said that during the assault, the victim feigned death to save himself.

He said that Mr O'Mahoney had been told by someone near his home in Caerau

that nearby were a group of five or six men, one of whom had a golf club.

Shortly after, they shouted at him and punched him to the ground, kicking and stamping on him.

"It was all completely gratuitous and brutal," said Mr Elias.

At one point, he said, he decided to "play dead" because he believed they were not going to stop.

He managed to get away but was chased and attacked again.

Neighbours in the area were awakened by the incident and saw Mr O'Mahoney being struck with the golf club.

It was not until a woman intervened by shouting from a window that the group ran off.

Mr O'Mahoney fell to the ground unconscious and was not spotted until five hours later.

Judge Neil Bidder said: "That man's injuries were multiple and the consequences could have been fatal."

He said the attack was merciless.

Both men were said to have been drunk at the time, and were the only two who were identified.

At the time, the court heard, Davies was on bail for carrying out an attack in Commercial Street, Maesteg, fracturing his victim's jaw.

Davies later told the police he had been taking steroids for 14 weeks.

Kevin Seal, defending, said Pryce was jobless at the time, and drinking heavily.

## ROTARIANS' SENEDD TOUR

BRIDGEND Rotary Club recently visited the Senedd, where they were welcomed by the First Minister who gave a detailed account of the construction of the building and an insight into the work of the Welsh Assembly.

The party of Rotarians were grateful that Carwyn Jones, AM for Bridgend, took time out of his busy schedule to speak at length, and with obvious pride, about the impressive Senedd building; and also about the business of the Assembly and his hopes for the future, with greater powers and



fundraising capabilities for the Welsh Government.

The visit also included a tour of the committee rooms with the official guide and included a look at the old Welsh Assembly debating chamber, which we were advised is available for use by schools and other groups for speaking

competitions. President of Bridgend Rotary Club, Roger Grannum, said: "The First Minister and his father are both Rotarians and members of our club, so it was a very special visit for us."

Rotary's next big event is the charity fun walk from the Esplanade, Porthcawl on

Sunday May 20 from 11am.

The proceeds will be shared between 18 'local' Bridgend borough charities. Come and join us to 'Make their Day and Walk 5K'. Contact president Roger Grannum (01656 645148) for entry details.



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## Residents step out in the sunshine on a Walk for Life

**WALKERS** from Bridgend joined thousands of supporters from across Wales to step out in the sunshine on Sunday March 25 for the Kidney Wales Walk for Life.

Sponsored by Specsavers Bridgend, the walk started at the store on Adare Street, and was among many taking place across Wales on the day.

The aim is to beat last year's total of £123,000 to help the charity invest in life-saving equipment and patient care for those affected by kidney disease, as well as to fund ground-breaking research into kid-

ney disease and support organ donation.

The event was supported by Welsh rugby star Leigh Halfpenny, who is an ambassador, alongside TV presenters Alex Jones, Sarra Elgan and newsreader Andrea Byrne.

Anne Lowndes, director at Specsavers Bridgend, said: "We're delighted that the walks were a success and that, as official sponsor, we could help do our bit by raising funds and awareness for Kidney Wales by organising a walk.

"The event really brings the local community together, as it provides a fun way to support a very worthy cause, and one

which we are very proud to be associated with."

Roy J Thomas, executive chairman of the Kidney Wales Foundation, commented: "We had people walking in town centres, in parks and on the hills. We are extremely grateful for all the support we receive which helps fund the work we do with patients across the country."

It's not too late to make a difference as you can still donate money to the Walk for Life by either visiting [www.kidneywales.com](http://www.kidneywales.com) or contacting 02920 343940.

## Council keeps on growing – despite the pressure by Government

**FIGURES** released last week by the GMB union suggest that jobs have been cut from councils around Wales – except in Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC).

The union's headline claim was that almost 5,000 council jobs had been lost in Wales since the coalition Government took office.

The period the GMB used was from the first quarter of 2010 to the third quarter of 2011.

Jobs were lost at 19 of the 22 councils, with an average cut of around six per cent.

Neath Port Talbot, for instance, shed 9.8 per cent of staff, dropping from 6,356 to 5,733. Cardiff saw six per cent go, with staff numbers dropping from 12,444 to 11,702.

However, in BCBC it was another story, according to the GMB. Here, it appeared that the council was doing its bit to boost employment, with staff numbers jumping from 4,751 to 5,334 – a rise of 12.3 per cent.

The GMB figures raise another question. The current population of Bridgend county borough is 134,000, while the population in the Vale of Glamorgan is 124,000.

The Vale Council, according to the GMB, now employs 3,599 staff to service those 124,000.

Bridgend has eight per cent more residents to service, but BCBC has 5,334 staff – close to 50 per cent more employees than the Vale.

A spokesman for Bridgend County Borough Council explained: "Job losses are considered to be a last resort when all other measures have failed.

"Despite increased pressures on its resources and the ongoing difficulties of the economic climate, Bridgend County Borough Council has actively sought to avoid having to make staff redundancies.

"Thankfully, prudent management measures and a firm focus on achieving a number of efficiency savings over the last few years have enabled the authority to avoid such a situation.

"For example, when structures have been streamlined, wherever possible, staff affected by changes have been offered an opportunity to redeploy into vacant positions."

The spokesman added: "Such measures have allowed Bridgend County Borough Council to maintain relatively stable staffing levels over the last few years."

## GRAND SLAM COACHES HELP TO OPEN BRIDGEND JUNIOR GAMES



Warren Gatland and Rob Howley were on hand to open the Bridgend Junior Games 2012, fresh from Wales inspiring Six Nations Grand Slam triumph.

**WALES' Grand Slam-winning head coach Warren Gatland, and former Bridgend and Wales scrum-half Rob Howley were the surprise guests at the opening of the Bridgend Junior Games 2012.**

They were greeted with excitement as they helped launch the games, organised by Bridgend County Borough Council's active young people department.

This year's games involved 24 of the borough's primary school pupils in a festival of sport and activity inspired by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Council Leader, Coun Mel Nott, said: "It was wonderful to see over 1,000 children taking part in the range of sports, such as basketball, football and athletics on offer today.

"We want to encourage children and young people to be healthy and active and this is a perfect opportunity. The junior games are also recognised as one of the largest

youth sporting events in Wales, and there is a special significance in this special Olympic and Paralympic year.

"In Bridgend county borough, we have an outstanding record of producing world-class sportsmen and women, including many fine rugby players like Rob Howley.

"I'd like to thank Warren and Rob for making the time to visit us following their Grand Slam win.

"The way they have led the Wales squad to victory is a true inspiration for the children."

As part of the build-up to the event, each of the competing schools adopted a country and learnt about its culture, before creating banners and brightly coloured flags to support their team at the event.

To mark the Olympic year every child received a medal for taking part and representing their school, and the winners of the individual tournaments received gold, silver and bronze medals.



### COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL  
Your local correspondent is  
Nancy Davidge, 'Tynewydd',  
Llangan. (01656) 860303

**Life in the media!**  
THIS was the theme of an extremely interesting talk by BBC Wales presenter, Lucy Owen, which took place in the restored St Canna's vestry on March 22.

To a packed audience, Lucy told how nervous she had been at her first interview to become a newsreader and TV interviewer. When we see on our screens what a true professional she has become, that is difficult to believe!

Following her talk in her experiences in the media, Lucy had time to pose for photos and autographs. Many of her former Llangan neighbours and others from other villages joined in a vote of thanks.

**Vestry meeting**  
THE meeting which took place at Saron Vestry Club last Wednesday was well

attended.

The next meeting will take place on April 4 at 7pm, when the ladies will endeavour to show their prowess in an Easter bonnet competition. New members are welcome.

**Cymanfa Ganu**  
ON a beautiful evening, residents from local villages and further afield came to Saron Chapel on Sunday, March 25 for the Cymanfa Ganu, which was held to help raise funds for the forthcoming National Eisteddfod at Llandow.

Cor Meibion y Machlud, conducted by Eric Dafydd, with accompanist Carol Phillips, had a superb harp solo, Megan Morris, and provided a lovely evening, bringing back memories with 'Calon Lan' and 'Cwm Rhonda,' with the audience joining in the singing.

## 'Put on a show for Olympics' – villages urged

**GARDENERS and businesses in Cornelly, Mawdlam and Kenfig are being asked to join together to "help the villages look special for the Olympics" with a flower display and competition.**

Entries can be a hanging basket, or a floral tub, or a window box with a colour scheme of red, white and blue or gold, silver and bronze, which might be more tricky!

Entry into the competition is free. Competition co-organiser Alison Lloyd said: "We were trying to think of ways we could show our support for Team GB and the idea for a flower display came up.

"As well as showing our support it should brighten up our community. We hope as many people and businesses as possible enter.

"It doesn't matter how experienced a gardener you are, just have a go! If people want to add flags to the pots that will be great!"

The competition will be judged during the Olympics (July 27-August 12) and prize winners (small prizes) will be notified soon after.



Support Team GB with a colour-coded floral display!

"The Olympics seems ages away but with spring here, now is the time to be thinking of plants for your pots, especially if you grow from seed," said Alison.

"We will post photos of as many of the entries as we can onto the new "Olympic Flower Display" and Competition" Facebook page. It would be good for those entering, if you upload photos of how you are getting on, even take some pictures of how the baskets looked

at the start and at the end. It's always amazing how they fill out, it will be great to follow how we are getting along!"

Entry forms are available at Cornelly Post Office, Hardware Shop and Filco's, Llew's Take Away and Bracey's Garden Centre, or email Alison on [lloyd1@supanet.com](mailto:lloyd1@supanet.com). The display and competition is being organised by the Cornelly branch of the Labour Party.

**• Did you know you can read your GEM online?**  
[bridgend-today.co.uk](http://bridgend-today.co.uk)



# MP hosts RAF awards ceremony

Pictures by  
**KEITH E.MORGAN**

"For services  
to the ATC..."



ABOVE: Presentation to Mr Neil Carter, civilian instructor, for his contribution to the Air Training Corps.

Madeleine Moon, MP for Bridgend, welcomed two RAF presentation teams to Bridgend College last week.

The teams gave presentations on the role of the RAF and the different tasks it performs, and about the recent involvement of the RAF in Operation Ellamy over Libya.

The audience was also given the opportunity to put questions to Air Commodore Ed Stringer.

Ms Moon MP commented: "This was a superb evening which gave the constituents of Bridgend county borough the opportunity to see for themselves the role of today's Royal Air Force."

"The two RAF presentation teams were extremely professional and their impressive presentations were a great success."

"My thanks go to Bridgend College for the use of their new Sony Theatre, and for their excellent help in organising the evening."

"The 3 Welsh Wing Air Cadets, under the control of Jerry Lewis, helped the evening run smoothly by assisting with the guests arriving and leaving the theatre."

"The Commanding Officer at 215 (City of Swansea) kindly agreed to make his band available for the evening, and played while guests were taking their seats."

The evening ended with the presentation of awards from Mrs Moon and Air Commodore Ed Stringer to two representatives of the Air Cadets:

Cadet Harry Bennet was commended for his fundraising for charity and Civilian Instructor Neil Carter received a commendation for meritorious service.

## Carrier bags charge raises cash for charity

THE Cancer Research UK charity has thanked Lacoste at McArthurGlen who donate their 5p charge for carrier bags – and since January 2012, they have raised £321.

Josh Edwards (assistant manager) said: "The staff and I choose Cancer Research U.K as it is a charity close to our own hearts and know that the money raised will help towards life saving work".

Caroline Keech and Beverly Lawson from Cancer Research UK Bridgend went to meet Josh Edwards, Danielle Tabor, and Paris-Ann Fry at Lacoste to thank them for their support

Did you know you can read  
your GEM online?  
[bridgend-today.co.uk](http://bridgend-today.co.uk)



BELOW: Madeleine Moon MP welcomes Coun DG Howells, the Mayor of Maesteg, and his consort Mrs Howells.



ABOVE: Madeleine Moon MP and Air Commodore Ed Stringer, Director of Joint Capability, together with the members of the RAF Presentation Team and the Operation Ellamy over Libya team.



Madeleine Moon MP introducing the RAF presentation team; Squadron Leader Elaine Smith, Flight Lieutenant James West, Master Aircrew Gareth Attridge and Senior Aircraftman Dave Morris, who was not on the stage.



ABOVE: Presentation to Cadet Harry Bennett for his contribution to the Air Training Corps.



Madeleine Moon MP with Couns Gaynor and David Newton-Williams, representing Porthcawl Town Council, and Squadron Leader Elaine Smith, leader of the RAF Presentation Team.

## ATC WARRANT OFFICERS TAKE A BOW...



Bridgend's MP and Air Commodore Ed Stringer, Director of Joint Capability, together with all the ATC Warrant Officers participating in the evening's event.



BELOW: Madeleine Moon MP with Coun Clare Lewis, Mayor of Porthcawl Town Council, and consort Mr Lewis.



ABOVE: The 215 City of Swansea Squadron Band.



# Bridgend kickboxers qualify to take on the world

**BRIDGEND fighters from WKU (Welsh Kickboxing Union) have done it again!**

Bridgend Warriors, Scorpions, Spartans and Spatz all sent fighters to compete at the recent ICO (International Combat Organisation) Celtic open.

The event had a huge turn out with association members travelling from all over Britain to compete for the opportunity to fight in the world championships to be held in Paris later this year.

To win a place in the world championships fighters had to battle their way through points, continuous, patterns and take down categories each of which had up to 25 competitors.

To guarantee a place it was necessary to win a first second or third place. Competition was tough but by the end of the day a total of 22 fighters from WKU had qualified for The World



Gavin Tuck.

Championships and will be heading off to Paris in the autumn.

WKU fighters demonstrated their usual high level of ability, a reflection of the quality instruction and commitment provided throughout the clubs.

All are welcome at WKU clubs and instructors will tailor programmes to suit individual needs regardless of age, gender or ability.



Tia Lewis and Morgan Pagnet.



Gethin Bevan-Jones in action.

So if you fancy getting in the ring and fighting at one of the many affiliated competitions, work your way through the grading system or just want to tone up and get fit in a friendly supportive atmosphere then contact WKU; www.kickboxingbridgend.co.uk or find us on Facebook.

DA

## THE PENCOED UNDER-11s TRIUMPH IN TOURNAMENT

**PENCOED under-11s travelled to Talywain RFC for their first tournament of the season.**

Pencoed were drawn in pool 1 with New Tredegar, Blackwood and Pontypool, who they beat comfortably.

Pencoed then played Ebbw Vale in the first semi final of the day. This turned out to be a tough encounter. The first few minutes were tense with knock on's and penalties by both sides, but a set piece at the lineout and a quick pass from Owain John to Josh Sands made sure that we opened the score.

The tries then kept on coming, as Mikey Bosley caught a high ball in the air, to spin and find space for a try, and then a three quarter move with good support by Cael Chamberlain and Rhys Spurgeon saw Mikey Bosley take on three defenders with a side step in the corner to score again.

With only moments to go before the half time whistle Sam Costellow intercepted a long pass to run in a try from the half way line. Half time score, 20-0.

At the start of the second half Pencoed kicked off, and the switch move was effective as Oliver Lewis ran through five defenders to score. Ebbw Vale then scored; however they were undisciplined and were penalized by the referee.

At this penalty Ben Jones spun the ball out to Josh who saw the opening and charged through for another. Again at the kick off Pencoed's speed and fast handling skills saw a quick ball out to Thomas Bending to score in the corner.

Ebbw Vale still kept on coming, even though it was only minutes left to play, they kicked a long ball chased it down and scored themselves to bring the scores to 35-10. Pencoed though turned up the gas, and with superb passing with the ball going through several sets of hands, Josh did the honours to go over for his hat trick of the game. Final score 40-10. This win secured Pencoed's place in the final against Brecon who themselves went through to the final unbeaten.

The first five minutes of the first half saw Pencoed camped in their own 22. Levi Davies, Rhys Spurgeon, Ben Jones and Ethan did what they could, but the Brecon backs peppered the defence again and again, and their perseverance paid off with the first try of the game.

The next try came from a scrum. It was Brecon's put-in, but Rhys Spurgeon hooked the ball, it came out to Pencoed, Ioan Richards snatched up the ball and spun it out to Will Jervis. The ball went through three more sets of hands before Mikey ran the ball in to end the score at the half time whistle.

The sun was belting down, and both teams seemed to tire with missed tackles and knock on's on both sides.

Brecon kicked deep again, but Dan John with the sun in his eyes caught the high ball and made some ground, the ball was then recycled through Jack Rowlands who kept his nerve and following another penalty, and another set move, Cael took the ball over in an explosive crash ball move to put Pencoed in front 10-5.

Pencoed kept at it and tried and attacked the Brecon defence, with Jonathon Carr looking like he was going to burst through; then

Tyron Harding had the chance and still the Pencoed backs kept at them, attacking to the left and to the right, but their defence was too strong.

Ethan went over, but it was disallowed, and the boys kept at it, and Josh got the ball and smashed through for his tenth try of the tournament.

Brecon to their credit showed their class and came back in the closing moment of the game to make it 15-10. Next came the referee's whistle to the roar of the Pencoed players and supporters; Pencoed were tournament champions.

Special mention goes to Sam Costellow for getting the award from the referees as player of the tournament.

**Squad 2011-2012:** Rhys Bending, Thomas Bending, Michael Bosley, Jonathan Carr, Cael Chamberlain, Sam Costellow, Ethan Davies, Levi Davies, Tyrone Harding, William Jervis, Daniel John, Owain Johns, Ben Jones, Oliver Lewis, Connor Mellish, Ioan Richards, Jack Rowlands, Josh Sands, Rhys Spurgeon.

If your child is 11 years old (year 6) on or after September 1, 2011 then he/she is eligible to play for the Pencoed under-11s team.

We are always looking for committed players; all children are welcome, with any skill level. Contact Michael Bosley on 07989357739.

The matches are played on Sundays at around 11.00am, and there are weekly subs of £2 to pay with training every week on Wednesdays at the Woodlands 5.45pm.

CB

## NEWS FROM PYLE AND KENFIG GOLF CLUB

### Club hands out trophies on presentation night

**THE members of Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club recently turned out for the presentation evening, where the club captain Tony Price, ably assisted by lady captain Teri Ward, distributed the prizes.**

Both captains thanked all the players who supported the club by entering competitions and by attending on the night. It was deemed a very successful year, with the success of the junior section noted in particular.

The course is the envy of many and P&K's

unique social atmosphere is enjoyed by the members and visitors throughout the year.

After the presentations, the cups are filled with special cocktails, friends and former opponents are invited to partake of the concoctions, and the celebrations carry on well into the night.

Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club welcomes all golfers. The free draining course is open when many others are closed. For information, contact the secretary's office on 01656 783093 or visit www.pandkgolfclub.co.uk.



Gwyneth Parsons and Teri Ward (winners of the Clifford Cup) with captain Tony Price.



Dr Ceri Mohajer — Bronze Championship runner-up.



ABOVE: On the evening the captains also thanked members for supporting the club.

### Seaweeds youth win in the capital

**A friendly match between Llandaff RFC Youth and Porthcawl RFC Youth was played in bright sunshine on the UWIC fields in Cardiff.**

Having already beaten Pentyrch and Cardiff Quins this was the third Cardiff side the young seaweeds have played and were hoping to make it three from three.

However, with a number of players being unavailable and Llandaff having a good season it was going to be a stern test.

Although once again playing against a bigger side the young seaweeds had the upper hand in the scrums and lineout.

This dominance allowed them to enjoy a lot of possession; however the home side's defence was very good and held out the seaweeds attacks until a typical break out of the ruck by Owen Wright led him to race away to score the first try of the game which was converted by Huw Mitchell.

This seemed to galvanise Llandaff, who began to try to spread the wall wide but Porthcawl's defence held firm and the home side were unable to put any points on the scoreboard.

The second half started with Llandaff attacking and they began to use their larger forwards more often, which put pressure on the young seaweeds.

Through excellent organised defence Porthcawl were able to frustrate their opponents and began to regain control of the game.

A great run by prop JT saw him power through a number of defenders to score under the posts which was converted by Mitchell.

The home side then scored an unconverted try of their own to put pressure on Porthcawl. However a few minutes later, after sustained pos-

session, flanker Jack Taylor showed great pace to score wide out which was well converted by Mitchell.

The final try of the game came from winger Josh Williams, who showed his speed as he stepped inside then out to run around his opposite number from 40 meters to race in unopposed and score under the posts.

This was again converted by Mitchell, who enjoyed a 100 per cent day with the boot for a final score of 28-5.

Another excellent performance by the young seaweeds and if it wasn't for two occasions when the ball was dropped over the line the scoreline could have been even more convincing.

Llandaff played their part in a very good game and battled to the end showing that on their day they are a very good side.

PB

### Rugby club starts the push for promotion

**COWBRIDGE welcomed Tonna to the Athletic Field last Saturday and in glorious sunshine ran out worthy winners by 38-17.**

Within three minutes of the start, Cowbridge nearly scored following a mazy run from full back Matt Pound, but he was pulled back for foot in touch. Cowbridge went into their shell as outside half Carwyn Morgan's two penalties were cancelled out by two from the Tonna full back.

But 25 minutes in, from a scrum, scrum half Dewi Edwards got the ball away to Morgan who beat two men and put in a delightful kick ahead that pounced perfectly for flying wing Liam Rowland to gather and sprint over for an unconverted try.

Edwards put in the tackle of the half to earn a penalty, but the next score went to Tonna with a third penalty.

In the opening five minutes of the second half from a pick-up at the base of the scrum, No 8 and captain Ross Llewellyn released scrum half Edwards and his excellent pass found full back Pound coming up at pace.

He went outside, then back inside,

to score a try from 35 metres out. Minutes later, Pound put a kick across field, wing Logsdon chased and caught his opposite number.

Support arrived and the ball was spun out to Morgan who put flanker Luke Boys through a gap to score. Morgan added the extras.

With 15 minutes left, great work by Edwards managed to steal Tonna's ball from the base of the scrum; Ross Llewellyn took it on, the ball was recycled and Morgan dummied his way through to the line for a try he converted.

Tonna ran a penalty 10 metres out and worked their right wing over in the corner. Hooker Adams, who had made several bullocking runs took a knock and Alun John replaced him.

It took a great tackle from wing Rowlands to stop a break out by Tonna and then a further penalty from Morgan eased the score out.

With minutes remaining Alex Lewis crashed over near the corner following good work by wing Logsdon and No 8 Llewellyn for a final score of 38-17.

RV/RK





# GEM sport

## Third win on the trot as Athletic show their class away from home

**LLANGENNECH 32  
BRIDGEND ATHLETIC 46**

**THE Athletic kicked off the game with a slight breeze at their backs with conditions ideal for a fast-running game, and that is what transpired during the 80 minutes.**

The Athletic were soon on the attack and they kicked to touch into the Llangennech 22.

From the lineup a Llangennech clearance kick was charged down by scrum half Aled Thomas who chased the ball to score a try which was converted by outside half Steve Lewis.

The Athletic were soon back onto the attack but a kick out of defence by Llangennech caught an Athletic player not releasing the ball in a tackle, and Llangennech's Ricky Williams converted the resultant penalty.

From the re-start, the Athletic won the ball and quick movement by the backs and forwards released full back Jonathan Phillips to score in the corner to take the score to 3 points to 12.

The play continued from end to end, with both sides seeking defensive mistakes.

It was Llangennech

who infringed for Steve Lewis to kick a penalty to move the score to 3-15.

The Athletic failed to take the re-start cleanly and were penalised for not releasing and Ricky Williams again stepped up to kick the penalty.

Two minutes later, Llangennech made the same mistake of not releasing and Steve Lewis kicked the penalty to take the score to 6-18.

From the re-start Llangennech won the ball and moved it along the back line to wing Liam Hutchings, who outpaced the Athletic defence to score out wide.

Llangennech knocked on from the Athletic drop out and from the resultant scrum the Athletic forwards drove forward and presented good ball for the backs.

A clever inside off-load by centre Mike Hathaway put fellow centre Tom Goodwin into space for him to score under the posts.

Steven Lewis converted to take the score to 11-25.

The game continued at pace and a speculative kick upfield was chased by wing James Olds and the bounce of the ball deceived the defenders and dropped



Action from the game as Bridgend Athletic earned a good away win.

into his hands for him to race in under the posts.

The try was converted by Stephen Lewis to take the half time score to 11-32.

The high pace of the game continued in the second half and a break from a ruck by Aled Thomas put the supporting Steve Lewis in under the posts, and he converted his own try to take the score to 11-39.

The Athletic continued to press the Llangennech line and the ball was moved left and then right searching for a weakness in the Llangennech defence.

Eventually, James Olds broke through and passed inside to wing Rhys Ward-Jones who, despite being pulled down short of the line, flicked up an inside pass to Jonathan Phillips to score out wide.

Steven Lewis converted to make the score 11-46 to the visitors.

During this period of play the Athletic lost both of their second rows Morgan Evans and Callum McCleod to injury and full back Jonathan Phillips and Dan Apsee to the sin bin.

Because all their replacements had been used prior to this, it left the Athletic with 13 players for 10 minutes, and 14 players for the last 10 minutes.

This enabled Llangennech to find holes in the Athletic defence which they duly exploited.

First Lee Davies carved through to score under the posts and then

Lee Davies scored out wide, the try converted by Gareth Walters.

Gareth Davies then scored, converted by Ricky Williams, to take the score to 32-46 with 10 minutes remaining.

However, the Athletic 14 were able to keep the ball to run down the clock for a rare victory at Llangennech.

All 19 players used were outstanding on the day, with No 8 Tom Penry-Ellis voted man of the match.

This was the third successive league victory

for the Athletic and second bonus point victory in succession.

They now have three successive home league games on March 31 against Waunarlwydd, against Ammanford on April 7, and conclude the season with a local derby against Tondy on April 14.

The team will be looking to finish the season on a positive note before playing in the new championship league next season.

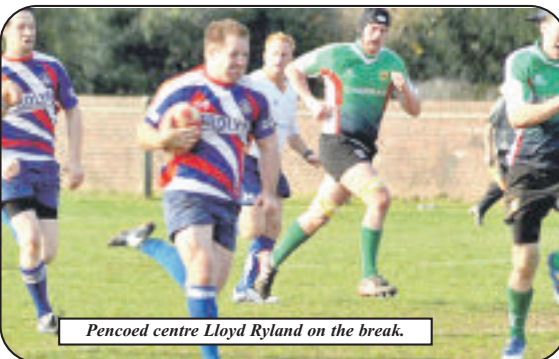
AB

## PENCOED RFC ROUND-UP



Former British Lions captain Gareth Thomas flanked by club president Mr Maldwyn Summers (right) and the club's chairman Mr Terry Rees. ALL PHOTOS BY JULIE HANCOCK

## Fine victory as 'Alfie' looks on!



Pencoed centre Lloyd Ryland on the break.

**PENCOED proved far to strong for a depleted Brynamman side at the Recreation Ground, winning 64-27.**

Tries flowed from all over the pitch in front of former player, Welsh international and British Lions' captain Gareth Thomas.

Pencoed ran in nine tries in the 64-27 victory to move above their visitors to fifth place in Division 3 South West.

Richie Samuel headed the try scorers notching up a brace, with further tries coming from Glen Hiscocks, Geoffrey Hobbs, Lloyd Ryland, Ryan Wallis, Gareth Prentice, Aaron Halse and Marc Davies, who added 19 points with the boot for a match contribution of 24 points.

On Saturday, Pencoed travel to Aberavon Green Stars in the league.

An under strength second team went down to Mid Glamorgan District Cup semi-final defeat at Kenfig Hill, the Premier League leaders too strong in the circumstances.

For Pencoed tries came from Tom Cross, Jamie Williams and



Pencoed Phoenix on the attack.

Liam Halse, Halse adding a conversion with Tom Davies kicking a penalty and conversion in the 61-22 defeat.

The youth continued their successful run with a 29-0 away win at Maesteg Celtic to remain top of their Ospreys League section.

**PENCOED PHOENIX GIRLS UNDER-15s 40 GARNDIFFAITH UNDER-15s 0**

**Pencoed Phoenix under-15s showed a marked improvement in all aspects of play following their recent defeat to Mayfield Secondary School, Canada.**

Showing a mean defence to visitors

Garndiffaith, they also displayed some good running ability to score six tries.

Ria Brown and Amy Morgan got two tries apiece, with Molly Watkins and Ceryn Williams also crossing the whitewash; Megan Whittaker added five conversions.

The club are pleased the Ospreys region have chosen Pencoed as their base to develop 11-13 year old girls who will be known as the 'Young Eagles'.

This introduction to rugby football for girls in and around the locality will commence on Thursday, April 26, from 6.30pm-7.30pm, and continue through the summer months.

TR

## Porthcawl under-12s stay warm!



PICTURED: Andrew Davies with Max Budding

**PORTHCAWL RFC under-12s would like to thank Andrew of Andrew Davies Wealth Management Ltd for supplying the boys with their team warm-up jackets.**

Andrew has been very generous in his support and it is much appreciated by all involved with

Porthcawl under-12s results:

Porthcawl 15, Ystrad Rhondda 5; Fall Bay 7, Porthcawl 12; Bridgend Sports 7, Porthcawl 26; Kenfig Hill 12, Porthcawl 31; Pill Harriers 12, Porthcawl 29; Ystrad Rhondda 12, Porthcawl 21; Porthcawl 34, Tondy 7; Rhiwbina 12, Porthcawl 12.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 29TH, 2012

## Green light for six 'trial' camp sites along the heritage coast

SIX trial camping sites are likely to be given the green light along the Glamorgan heritage coast this summer.

The sites will only be for tents, not caravans, and are an opportunity for landowners to see whether they would like to run them in the future on a long term basis, when they could become a vital part of the Vale's tourism strategy.

Phil Chappell, the principal rural regeneration officer for the Vale Council, said: "We are supporting up to six sites across the Glamorgan Heritage Coast area this summer."

"Potential sites have already been chosen for further development. This is a trial using the '28-day rule' to give landowners an opportunity to see if this can work and what economic benefits it can bring to an area before they potentially decide to go full time or apply for planning permission."

Mr Chappell explained that this summer happened to be a particularly appropriate time to launch the scheme: "The National Eisteddfod at Llandow is

**Report by TIM CHAPMAN**

a mutually-beneficial coincidence, but the project has not been developed specifically with the Eisteddfod in mind."

However, The GEM understands that all six sites would be open for the week when thousands of people converge on the Vale for Wales' premier cultural event.

The National Eisteddfod runs this year from August 4 to August 11, and with estimates of the number of visitors varying from 150,000 people to 200,000, any extra overnight places for people to stay will be welcomed.

The project is being developed by the Creative Rural Communities Local Action Group.

Rebecca Hayes, the project development officer with Creative Rural Communities, emphasised that the group were in the early stages of the project and that it would give local landowners the chance to dip their toes in the water, to see whether it was something they would like to do in the long term.

There has been a problem with unauthorised camping along the Glamorgan Heritage Coast – notably at Llantwit Major beach, where bye-laws were introduced by the Vale Council to prevent illegal camping.

Llantwit residents complained of fires being lit on the meadow, handrails being ripped down for fire wood, and damage to local toilets.

It is hoped that the introduction of new camp sites will reduce incidents of illegal camping.

A number of landowners have visited camping sites on the Gower – to get information and seek advice from them as to what is involved.

The Creative Rural Communities group is working with the Vale Council's planning and licensing department on the project.

## THE BEAVERS PARACHUTE IN!



St Athan Beavers pictured at the ICAT Centre. (SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 3).

## 'Come to the community fair day meeting and give us your views' – locals urged

RESIDENTS of Llantwit Major are being invited to a 'community fair day' public meeting in the town's rugby club tonight (Thursday, March 29, 7.30pm).

This year, Llantwit Major Community Fair Day is to be held on Saturday, June 23, but it will only be made possible by the enthusiastic involvement of local people and organisations.

Organiser Byron Evans told The GEM:

"The meeting starts at 7.30pm and we are keen to hear the views of local people as to what they would like to see."

The 'community fair day' first began two years ago and was introduced to provide a summer entertainment event in years when the bi-ennial Victorian Fair Day wasn't being held.

Two years ago, when Byron got the first summer fair off the ground, he emphasised that the idea was to reinvent the community spirit once inspired by the agricultural fairs that were held in the Vale in the past.

"One of the latest ideas proposed by someone was to have a public humiliation of 'leg waxing' for charity!" said Byron.

"So if there's someone who would like to help to organise that, we'd like them to get in touch."

The organisers plan to have a far bigger event than the one in 2010.

Byron envisages a large number stalls for the day – at a reasonable charge because he wants a good selection.

Various activities and games are planned, including a scarecrow competition and a melon-eating contest; there will be a pentathlon with a twist, an orienteering competition and water

polo. But Byron is anxious that as many people and organisations as possible should attend tonight

with suggestions as to what they would like to see and what they could help to organise.  
TIM CHAPMAN

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